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OPINION METER

This week's poll:

On a scale of 1 to 5. with five being the highest, what's your level of confidence in the ability of the **CNMI** economy to recover within the next three years?

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INSIDE



'Tea Parties'

Thousands of protesters stage "tea parties" around the country to tap into the collective angst.

NATION...Page 21



Afghan Protest

Dozens of women braved crowds to protest an Afghan law that lets husbands demand sex from their wives

GHLI owes hospital, vendors \$17.4 million. PAGE 2 CNMI to see hike in food stamp funding. PAGE 6

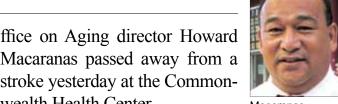
Howard Macaranas, 53

Office on Aging director dies of stroke

By MONETH G. DEPOSA

ffice on Aging director Howard Macaranas passed away from a

wealth Health Center.



Saipan Tribune learned that the 53-year-old official was admitted to CHC's intensive care unit Monday morning after suffering a stroke.

Macaranas died at 3:30pm yesterday due to a massive cerebral hemorrhagic stroke.

His condition failed to improve during his four-day confinement at the hospital's

See HOWARD on Page 4

By KRISTI FATON

Operator error and a lack of reserve are being blamed for the 2.5-hour islandwide blackout that occurred yesterday morning and cost the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. several thousand dollars.

At 7:28am, an operator put a gen-See BLACKOUT on Page 4

3,420 failed voters in the 2007 polls

Latest registered voters at 13,104

BY MONETH G. DEPOSA

Moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com REPORTER

A total of 3,420 individuals failed to vote during the 2007 midterm election and would need to register anew in order to participate in this year's gubernatorial poll, according to the See VOTERS on Page 4

CHC loses sole kidney doctor

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

REPORTER

The Commonwealth Health Center no longer has a full-time nephrologist starting today after Dr. Raphael G. Loutoby did not renew his contract because of a 20-percent cut in his salary.

But the government-run hospital is See CHC on Page 4

AWAODORI DANCE FESTIVAL

Tokyo Tensui Ren and the Saipan Awaodori members dance to the beat of drums in front of DFS Galleria in Garapan yesterday as part of the Awaodori Dance Festival hosted each year by the Paseo de Marianas Promoters Inc. The groups also performed at Fiesta Resort & Spa and Garapan Street Market yesterday. Inset, group members teach the local elderly how to perform Japanese dances at the Office on Aging in Garapan. Awa Odori is the largest dance festival





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Local

GHLI owes hospital, vendors \$17.4M

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com

The government-run Group Health and Life Insurance owes health providers and other vendors \$17.4 million in "aged"

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payables, almost 88 percent or \$15.3 million of which is owed to the Commonwealth Health Center, the Rota Health Center, and the Tinian Health Center.

Aged payables are those due by over 90 days as of March 31.

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These vendors are in the CNMI, Guam, Hawaii and the U.S. mainland.

David S. Demapan, comptroller of GHLI, said the remaining amount is owed to Aetna's runoff claims prior to Nov.

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1, 2007, \$193,084; Netcare Life & Health Insurance Co., \$182,841; Individual Assurance Co., \$499; and all other vendors mostly pre-Aetna runoff claims, \$1.8 million.

Demapan, in his latest financial report, said GHLI's revenue reached only \$6.5 million during the first six months of fiscal year 2009, an 11 percent drop from the same period last year.

He said the government's non-payment of \$1.2 million in employer contribution is the main reason for the overall drop in GHLI revenue.

GHLI also collected only \$6.4 million on medical insurance premiums during the first six months of FY 2009.

"The rate hike of 12.9 percent on Nov. 1, 2008, is the main contributor for the 6 percent drop," said Demapan in his report to the NMI Retirement Fund board of trustees.

The government health and life insurance program generated \$109,598 on the 5 percent surcharge imposed on the life insurance premiums. The surcharge is used to pay off the investment in GHLI by the NMI Retirement Fund.

Fiscal year-to-date medical claims amounted to \$5.4 million. In March alone, \$1.6 million was to Aetna Life & Casualty Bermuda for the health insurance premiums but GHLI has not received the billing yet. GHLI also paid \$365,828.50 to Netcare Life and Health Insurance Co. in March alone.

Demapan raised two concerns affecting operational costs: the unbudgeted item of the interest portion of the debt service payment to investment in GHLI by the Retirement Fund, and the unbudgeted salaries and benefits of GHLI employees transferred to the Retirement Fund.

The comptroller said the available cash of \$712,445.50 will be used to pay Netcare Life and Health Insurance Co., Aetna Life and Casualty Bermuda, and investment in the NMI Re-







Ex-CUC chief: Villagomez pressured me to sign \$120K contract

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE

Former Commonwealth Utilities Corp. executive director Anthony C. Guerrero took the witness stand yesterday to testify that Lt. Gov. Timothy P. Villagomez pressured him to process the \$120,000 Rydlyme sole-source contract with Joaquina V. Santos' Blue Pacific.

The 13th day of the ongoing jury trial of Villagomez and his co-defendants-former Commerce Secretary James A. Santos and Joaquina V. Santosalso saw Guerrero testifying that Villagomez instructed him to double the number of barrels of Rydlyme being requested by the Power Division.

Guerrero has already pleaded guilty to wire fraud, conspiracy. and theft of federal funds.

In his testimony, Guerrero said the first requisition voucher was for 10 drums of Rydlyme, but Villagomez called him and asked him to look into increasing or doubling the original number. CUC ended up buying 3,000 gallons of Rydlyme from Blue Pacific for \$120,000. So far, CUC has paid only \$60,000 to Blue Pacific.

Guerrero admitted signing the sole-source contract for CUC Procurement and Supply acting manager Manuel B. Sa-

Labor presses cutting backlog of labor cases pending in court

Department of Labor Deputy Secretary Cinta Kaipat said they are eyeing a reduction in the backlog of labor cases pending in the Superior Court.

In her interim report on the implementation of Public Law 15-108, Kaipat said they expect to be current within six to eight weeks on labor cases filed in the local court.

Kaipat said that Labor's new counsel, Eli Golob, appeared in court on several cases a few days after being sworn in as member of the CNMI Bar.

Golob practiced law in Arizona and New York and is reportedly an experienced trial attorney and in administrative

Kaipat said Golob will also be working on reducing the backlog of alien worker claims at the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, the U.S. Labor Relations Board, and the U.S. Department of Labor.

Kaipat emphasized that the backlogs in these federal agencies are not the result of any delay at CNMI Labor.

"We are going to urge the agencies to move along and terminate Temporary Work Authorizations as soon as possible in cases where the agencies continue their undue delays," she added. (Ferdie de la Torre)

concerns with it.

"Sablan basically refused to sign the contract," Guerrero told assistant U.S. attorney Eric O'Malley.

He said that in early August of 2007, he received two letters from Joaquina Santos where she made a sales pitch for Rydlyme.

After receiving the second letter, Guerrero said he received a phone call from Villagomez, who instructed him to process the contract of Blue Pacific with Procurement and Supply. In that conversation with Villagomez, Guerrero said he could hear Joaquina Santos' voice in the background.

He said his next communication with Villagomez was a phone call, during which the lieutenant governor appeared irritated with Sablan and his staff, Joseph Fejeran, for soliciting quotations for Rydlyme from other vendors.

"I told Villagomez that Sa-

blan was just covering his bases," he said. "He [Villagomez] was angry about it.'

Guerrero said he also had a brief conversation with James Santos in the hallway of the governor's conference room during a Cabinet meeting. He said James Santos, who was the then Commerce Secretary, followed up on the Rydlyme contract.

Guerrero said shortly after the sole-source contract was executed, Villagomez called to press for the initial payment. 'He basically told me to get on top of it," Guerrero said.

He said it is his understanding that Villagomez also contacted some CUC staff about it.

Guerrero said CUC was struggling with funds that week and even that year and that "it's very disturbing" that Villagomez was following up on the payment.

Guerrero said the Federal Bureau of Investigation put a wire on him during his conver-

sations with Villagomez. As he expected, the witness said, Vil-

"I didn't get much from his conlagomez was very general and versation," he said, adding that his

on the Rydlyme issue was always "very short and direct." Guerrero said he felt right away

past experience with Villagomez

that Villagomez was not comfortable when discussing Rydlyme.

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Judge denies mayor son's motion to suppress evidence

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE

ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com REPORTER

The federal court yesterday denied a motion filed by a defendant in an armed robbery case to suppress evidence with respect to three issues, but granted his request to exclude evidence pertaining to one.

U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Alex R. Munson denied Wilbur Vic Masga Inos' motion to suppress his statements in response to a police officer's initial questions regarding his location and attire.

Munson also denied the motion to suppress Inos' statements in response to a police officer's questions regarding the location of the rifle, the rifle, the clothes, and defendant's written confession. The judge, however, granted the defendant's motion to suppress his oral statements in response to a police officer's questions about the location of the clothes worn to commit the robbery.

Police arrested Inos about an hour after the robbery at Rota Poker was reported to the Rota Department of Public Safety on Aug. 4, 2008.

Detective George A. Barcinas stated in his report that when interrogated, Inos surrendered the money and explained that he only did it because his son is in critical condition in Guam.

Inos was subsequently indicted in federal court with one count of Hobbs Act robbery and one count of use of a firearm in the commission of a violent crime.

Inos, through counsel Robert T. Tor-

CHC

From Page 1

now working on finding a nephrologist to replace Loutoby, according to Dr. Divya Sharma, chief medical officer of CHC.

"We're looking at all our options," Sharma told *Saipan Tribune* yesterday.

Options include entering into an agreement with a Guam-based nephrologist to visit the CNMI on a periodic basis or hire a full-time nephrologist.

Given the high rate of kidney-related diseases and diabetes in the CNMI, having a full-time nephrologist at the only government hospital is important.

Sharma said Loutoby did not accept the 20-percent cut in his annual salary of \$250,000. On top of his salary, Loutoby was also receiving housing allowance.

"When he was asked to accept a 20- percent cut in his salary, he was also told that he will be relieved of 20 percent or more of his responsibilities...He's getting adequate pay. It's a reasonable offer given the rates offered

in the U.S. [mainland]," Sharma said.

Dr. Florian Braig, CHC chief of staff, also said that Loutoby didn't renew his contract because he did not accept the 20-percent reduction in salary. He added that no other physician contract renewal at CHC hinges on a 20-percent wage cut.

On its website, www.saipanhospitaldocs.org, the CHC Medical Staff posted at least 10 positions that need to be filled up, including an immediate opening for a U.S. board certified nephrologist and a physician, which were the latest to be posted on April 7.

Other currently available jobs include anesthesiologist, internist, and general surgeon.

res, asked the court to exclude evidence that according to him were illegally obtained by authorities.

Torres said the entry onto his property by Rota police Sgt. Eusebio Manglona was without probable cause.

In his ruling, Munson said Inos did not have a reasonable expectation of privacy in the barracks and therefore his 4th Amendment rights were not violated even if the court found the search unreasonable.

With respect to initial questions by Sgt. Manglona, Munson said Inos was not the subject of an "interrogation" and he was not yet entitled to the Mi-

randa warnings.

Accordingly, the judge said, the motion to suppress defendant's statements in response to Sgt. Manglona's inquiries as to his location and attire is denied.

On the rifle issue, Munson said the question was primarily focused on locating the abandoned weapon and cannot arbitrarily be extricated from the money inquiry.

"Accordingly, the motion to suppress incriminating statements made by defendant up to the time when the rifle was located is denied because of the public safety exception," he said.

On the statements issue, Munson said the defendant's statements were voluntary and the physical fruits of

those statements (the clothes) are admissible.

On the confession issue, Munson said Inos made a rational decision to waive his rights and sign the written confession.

Pertaining to the location of the clothes, Munson said regardless of how cordial the officers were to Inos or how comfortable and familiar the surroundings were to him, a reasonable person could not conclude that defendant was free to leave and defendant was therefore "in custody" for purposes of Miranda.

Inos is facing separate robbery charges in the Superior Court over the same incident. He is the son of the current Rota Mayor Joseph Inos.

VOTERS

From Page 1

Commonwealth Election Commission yesterday.

These individuals, once re-registered, are expected to boost the total participants in the general election set for Nov. 7.

Latest figures from the commission show that so far there are 13,104 registered voters in the CNMI.

If all 3,420 failed voters re-register and participate, the commission expects to exceed its target voters of 15,000 this year.

As of Feb. 26, 2009, election district 1 has the most number of registered voters, totaling 3,534, mostly from San Vicente with its 1,965 voters; Koblerville with 881; and San Antonio, 688.

Election district 2, which covers San Jose and Garapan villages, comes second, totaling 2,742. The Garapan area has 2,030 voters and San Jose has 712 so far.

Kagman, which belongs to election district 5, has total registered voters of 1,854.

In election district 4, Tanapag has the biggest number of registered voters at 550; San Roque has 471; Capitol Hill, 353; and Northern Islands, 72.

In Chalan Kanoa and Susupe areas, both under election district 2, the commission recorded a total of 998 registered voters.

On Tinian, latest figures show a total of 1,150 registered individuals, while Rota has 1,380.

'15 to 19 walk-in registrants daily'

Since the opening of registration in November last year, the election commission has seen quite a number of walk-in registrants visiting the office.

John L. Takai, the commission's outreach logistics coordinator, disclosed that they register an average of 15-19 individuals on a daily basis.

He said the current number of registered voters—13,104—is expected to go up in July with the entry of "fresh graduates" and "new voters."

"We're expecting more or less 1,400 new voters in July," he said, when most graduates apply for various scholarship programs. Voter registration is usually among the requirements.

Voter registration is up until Sept. 18. The commission earlier revised its position on what it considers "failed voters," saying these are individuals who did not participate in the 2007 election. Those who did not cast their ballots in the November 2008 delegate election were removed from the "failed voters" list since that election is considered a special election.

'209 new voters as of February'

Records obtained by *Saipan Tribune* show that since 2009, a total of 209 new voters were recorded by the commission.

These 209 individuals are excluded in the 13,104 "active" voters posted by the election commission.

Combined registered voters at present—active and new voters—is at 13.313.

Takai said this figure is expected to increase once the 3,420 "failed" voters register anew and new voters register in July.

BLACKOUT

From Page 1

erator on standby just as demand was increasing and more engines should have been put online. Power Plant 4 went down first, then knocked off the Aggreko generators, forcing 18 megawatts of power demand on Power Plant 1, far more than it can handle.

"The system rejected it and the whole system collapsed," said Wallon Young, deputy director for Utilities System Rehabilitation.

Power was restored to the island around 10 am.

The loss of customer usage during the few hours probably cost the utility agency several thousands dollars, CUC executive director Antonio Muña said.

As CUC repairs and brings in more engines, the utility company works to conserve fuel. The utility company is

working to restore several engines at Power Plant 1, in order to be ready for September, when the one-year contract with Aggreko ends.

The Aggreko engines have been providing 15 megawatts of power to the island since Sept. 11, virtually halting the blackouts and rotating brownouts that had plagued the island. CUC recently brought back online engines 7 and 3 at Power Plant 1 after months of rehabilitation. Muña said the engines were not damaged from the blackout.

The island demand has increased on weekdays from 37 to 39 megawatts, while fuel usage has remained fairly stable. When demand was 37 megawatts, CUC was using 58,000 total gallons of fuel each day at Power Plant 1 and Power Plant 4. Since March 31, when engines 7 and 3 were brought online and demand increased to 39 megawatts, the utility agency has only been using an additional 100 to 200 gallons

of fuel, he said.

"So, essentially, we're producing more with less fuel consumption," the executive director said. "We operate with a very thin line on a spinning reserve. This morning, essentially what happened, the operator basically took our spinning reserve offline at a critical moment when he was trying to establish stability in our frequency."

Muña said he believed protocols were in place so events like yesterday's black-out would not occur. The remedy, he added, is to revisit operation protocol.

"As much as we'd like to save or maximize on fuel savings, it looks like we may need to revisit to what extent we have a spinning reserve available to us at any given point in time," he said.

He added that it's a delicate balancing act.

"We felt we had the right kind of protocol in place, considering numbers and demand and not seeing a significant increase in fuel," he said. "We thought we had something, the protocol was sufficient. But it appears in speaking with Mr. Wallon Young, and at the same time other staff, we're going to have to revisit that and readdress that issue."

During the news briefing, Gov. Benigno Fitial asked Muña if the operator in question was still employed with CUC.

"Yes sir. We are re-educating our operators and ensuring the proper remedy is in place," Muña said, adding that he takes some responsibility.

"I monitor the fuel cost savings. From my standpoint, when you're producing more and meeting demand and your fuel costs are not significant in terms of increase, it is a positive situation," he said. "Obviously, it's also to a certain degree, as far as being a hire wire act, we just need to lower the height a little bit."

Young, when asked how much is ad-

equate reserve, said it should be equal to the largest unit online, which was 10 megawatts yesterday morning. But to have a 10-megawatt reserve, the engines would need to run at 50 percent.

"Now that's not a very efficient way to run diesel engines," he said.

There is an increase in costs when the spinning reserve is increased because engines are not running at their optimal efficiency, Young said. To run diesel engines at 50 to 60 percent, more fuel will be consumed but producing the same amount of kilowatt hours.

Asked if it was impossible to predict yesterday's outage would happen, Young said: "It was a not so good call by the operator this morning to shut down or to put one engine on standby when the load was coming in this morning. He made the decision because when he looked at the system frequency, it was high. He assumed there were too many engines online."

HOWARD

From Page 1

ICU, prompting family members to decide to turn off the ventilator.

Macaranas is survived by his wife, Susan, and children.

Macaranas was appointed by Gov. Benigno R. Fitial early in his administration to serve as Aging Office director. He succeeded Joseph Palacios at

the Man'amko Center.

Press secretary Charles Reyes Jr.
said Fitial extends his heartfelt condo-

lences to the family of the late official.

"The governor was very saddened to learn of the sudden passing of Mr. Macaranas. He extends his deepest sympathy and condolences to the family," Reyes said.

The press secretary added that he was with the governor when they learned about the official's death.

He said Macaranas' untimely death is a loss to the Commonwealth.

"Mr. Macaranas managed the Aging Center with professionalism and compassion, and his passing represents a loss to our Commonwealth," added Reyes.

Department of Community and Cultural Affairs Secretary Cecilia T. Celes described Macaranas as a supportive friend and colleague to everybody in the department.

Prior to his appointment in January 2006, Macaranas and Celes worked in the same department.

Yesterday, all eight divisions of the Department of Community and Cultural Affairs closed early to visit the former official at the intensive care unit.

"It's sad day for all of us. I have been consistently visiting him at the hospital...he's a very supportive friend and colleague to me and to everybody in the department. We will miss him and he's a great loss to DCCA," Celes said.

Yesterday, the *man'amko* trooped to the hospital upon learning of the passing of their friend.

"It broke my heart. The scene this afternoon at the hospital...was so emotional. Seeing our *man'amko* in deep grief was heartbreaking," Celes said.

The secretary noted the "special bonding and friendship" the former Aging director developed with the man'amko. "He's so special to our man'amko."

DCCA employees were also seen converging at the hospital lobby upon hearing the news.

"We closed our offices early and all came down to the hospital. Mr. Maracanas is a man with leadership skills. He left us with a lot of teachings and encouragement," Celes said.

Today, Celes will call for a directors' meeting among all DCCA departments to plan a special tribute to Macaranas.

Rose Mondala was named acting director of the Aging Office yesterday.

Reyes frets over hidden costs in ARRA projects

By KRISTI EATON

kristi_eaton@saipantribune.com

While Senate President Pete Reyes said he "wholeheartedly" supports the Fitial administration's effort to obtain funding for the Rota power plant as part of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, he cannot support an application for a

Public Health Information Network

Reyes, in a letter to Esther Fleming of the Office of Management and Budget, said his hesitation with any of the applications stems from hidden costs that may be incurred to the CNMI government.

The government has been working to secure millions of

dollars for projects in the Commonwealth, including money to buy two additional power generators for the island of Rota.

Reyes said he supports the application but encourages the government to make sure there are no hidden costs.

"While the proposal anticipates that with the acquisitions of new generators Rota custom-

gram, DeLeon Guerrero said.

all of us," she added.

needing many workers.

"It's history in the making for

Because of the Guam military

buildup, Fitial said the CNMI

would soon have a shipyard

ers can look forward to having reliable power 24/7, I am concerned how this will affect rates to be charged to CUC's Rota customers," he said. "My understanding of the proposal is that full funding for the proposed project is being sought under ARRA. If so, and with no cost outlay from the CNMI Government, it follows that power rates

for Rota customers need not be increased."

In a separate letter, Reyes said he supports the CNMI government applying for money to fund additional Fire and EMS response vehicles and to design and build a sold waste management facility on Tinian.

Matching CNMI costs are non-existent or minimal for

these projects, he noted.

However, because the summary states there will be matching costs for a CNMI Health Information Network, Reyes said he cannot support the application.

"...the summary states that matching costs to the CNMI are 'to be announced by National Coordinator for FY 2009 and FY 2010.' I simply cannot approve a project without an idea as to what it will cost the CNMI taxpayers," he said.

CNMI apprenticeship program created

By KRISTI EATON

Kristi_eaton@saipantribune.com REPORTER

Gov. Benigno Fitial and officials from the Public School System, Northern Marianas College and the Workforce Investment Agency signed a memorandum of understanding yesterday, creating a federally-registered apprenticeship program in the CNMI.

NMC will be the administrative authority for the program, which is registered with the U.S. Department of Labor.

"It's a difficult goal to achieve, but it's something we're so proud to be able to offer. These people will be able to do excellent jobs for us. Certainly the quality of work is important for us as we prepare to move the Commonwealth forward," NMC president Carmen Fernandez said.

The program can be transferred globally, but the priority is to build the local workforce, she said.

The trades involved will be market driven. The tourism and hospitality industry is one example of a key area that can be developed under the program. Another area could be utilities, where the students becomes certified in electricity, said Edith DeLeon Guerrero, WAI executive director.

With the stimulus funding coming down the pipeline, every state and insular area is required to implement the pro"There's going to be a lot of those trades needed working in that particular industry," the governor said.

Public Law 14-54 and PL 15-5 were enacted to establish and implement the apprentice-ship program.

"Also, the implementation of Public law 110-229 places

greater importance on the implementation of the apprenticeship program for the CNMI State to be more responsive to the needs of the private sector industries at the local, regional, and national level," the memorandum stated.

DeLeon Guerrero said a program budget of \$1.5 million was submitted to the Legislature but

it will need to be scaled down.

Esther Fleming of the Office of Budget and Management earlier said the administration was looking at suspending the program, in order to use the \$1.5 million elsewhere. But Charles Reyes, press secretary for the Governor's Office, said that is not the case.









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CNMI to see hike in **food stamp funding**

By KRISTI EATON

REPORTER

The Secretary of the U.S. Department of Agriculture has granted the CNMI's request to increase food stamp benefits by 13. 6 percent—the nationwide level set under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act.

USDA Secretary Thomas Vilsask informed CNMI Rep. Gregorio "Kilili" Sablan of his decision in a recent letter. Both Sablan and local officials, including Commerce Secretary Michael Ada, have been pushing for the CNMI to receive the same benefits. Ada is tasked with spearheading the CNMI's stimulus funding effort.

"This is on average an extra \$30 every month for the 2,600 families on Rota, Tinian, Saipan and the Northern Islands who use food stamps to make sure they have enough food on the table,' Sablan said in a statement. "And it's an extra \$1.45 million that can go into our local economy."

Under the ARRA, both Amer-



Sablan

ican Samoa and Puerto Rico received increases. The CNMI has a specific contract that is different from the Nutrition Assistance Program, Ada noted. However, American Samoa has the same contract and received the benefit increase, he said.

Sablan first contacted the USDA Secretary about the issue in February. Vilsask wrote to the CNMI congressman yesterday and said he would begin reprogramming the money for the CNMI's increase. Sablan said he expects to see the increase by June.

More than 7,000 people in the CNMI use the food stamp program each day, and the USDA estimates that for every extra dollar of food stamps, it generates \$1.84 in economic activity.

This is not the only time the CNMI has faced obstacles with ARRA funding. The CNMI's situation is very unique, Ada said. For example, the Northern Marianas' Department of Public Health is not Section 330 designated—the only U.S. jurisdiction lacking the designation, making it harder or sometimes impossible for the CNMI to get public health funding under the stimulus law.

Man is jailed for urinating on woman during flight

HONOLULU (AP)—A 28vear-old man has been sentenced to three weeks in jail for urinating on a 66-year-old woman during a Continental Airlines flight last month from Los Angeles to Honolulu.

Jerome Kenneth Kingzio, a resident of the U.S. Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, was sentenced after pleading guilty Tuesday to assault charges in federal court in Honolulu.

The victim was headed to Hawaii on March 21 for a scuba diving vacation and was watching an in-flight movie when Kingzio stood up and began urinating on her. He had been drinking on the flight.

U.S. Attorney Edward Kubo Jr. said the woman reported that not only was her entire vacation ruined, but she continues to suffer emotionally from the incident.

The case was investigated by the FBI.

163 NWA passengers stranded; spent night at Saipan hotels

BY MONETH G. DEPOSA

Moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com REPORTER

Over a hundred passengers from Japan were stranded at the Francisco C. Ada-Saipan International Airport after their aircraft made an emergency landing Wednesday.

It was around 5pm when pilots of Northwest Airlines Flight 73 informed the Commonwealth Ports Authority's airport advisory service operator that the flight will make an unscheduled landing at the Saipan runway.

According to Guam-based Richard Parsons, spokesperson for Northwest Airlines, the flight had 163 passengers and was bound for Narita, Japan.

The plane was diverted to Saipan for maintenance.

"On April 15, NW Flight 73 from Guam to Narita diverted to Saipan due to maintenance. One hundred sixty-three passengers were on board," he told *Saipan Tribune*, adding that it was not an "emergency landing."

Parsons confirmed that all 163 passengers spent one night on Saipan and that all expenses were shouldered by Northwest Airlines.

"All passengers were accommodated at hotels [on] Saipan for the night...with regards to hotel expenses, we cover accommodation costs as our normal process in case of delays," Parsons said.

It was confirmed that NW Flight 73 departed 9am Thursday from the Saipan airport.

Sources at the airport told *Saipan Tribune* that the aircraft was forced to

land on Saipan due to a minor crack on the plane's windshield, which was immediately fixed by the airline's maintenance crew yesterday.

Parsons, however, did not respond when asked about the matter.

On Wednesday, CPA executive director Efrain F. Camacho said that all ports personnel, particularly the Aircraft Rescue Fire Fighting crew, immediately assisted the plane. He said CPA alerted everybody and were on standby in the area throughout the process.

Saipan municipality proposes \$1.3M budget in FY2010

BY MONETH G. DEPOSA

Moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com REPORTER

The Saipan Mayor's Office has proposed a \$1.3 million budget for the next fiscal year, an amount slightly higher than its present allocation.

Tony Benavente, Saipan Mayor Juan B. Tudela's public information officer, disclosed yesterday that the proposed amount will fund both personnel and operations of the mayor's office in 2010.

Hesitant to provide the budget documents submitted to the Fitial administration, Benavente merely said the proposed budget covers 62 full-time employees.

"About \$1.2 million of the proposed budget will pay for personnel while the remaining—about \$100,000—will be used for 'All Others' and operation of the mayor's programs," he said.

All Others include supplies, gas, operations, and maintenance of programs.

Benavente said the budget proposal may change if the mayor sees the necessity to revise it.

Currently, the Saipan Mayor's Office has an annual allocation of \$1.2 million, a big bulk of which goes to personnel.

Excluded in the \$1.2 million is the 5 percent cut mandated by the Fitial administration for all

government agencies.

Tudela had warned in February of a possible across-theboard wage cut and furlough among his staff as a result of the limited budget.

Due to the dwindling economy and declining revenue and collection, the governor is planning to furlough government employees, which could hit most municipal employees.

The mayor said, though, that nobody in his office will be affected because, with the recent resignation and retirement of some personnel, he has enough funds to cover the cost of the remaining employees.

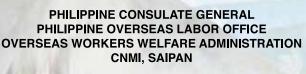
From 64 personnel, Tudela said that he has now only 50 employees in all divisions and programs. He said some 12 personnel or more either resigned or retired, saving his office a significant amount.

Benavente said yesterday that from 82 employees three years ago, the municipality now has 62 positions, of which 22 are vacant.

From the previous annual appropriation of \$2.5 million for the Saipan municipality, the amount dropped this fiscal year, resulting in only \$1.2 million for personnel cost.

Last fiscal year, a number of the municipality's employees were issued termination notices and non-renewal of their contracts. Tudela, however, later reconsidered and kept them until the end of the fiscal year.

Tudela is serving his last term in office as Saipan mayor.





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Ex-Saipan worker seeks help for kidney transplant

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com

A former employee at Kingfisher Golf Links for five years is seeking monetary donations from the community to help defray the cost of a kidney transplant set for April 20 in the Philippines.

Ramia Jaramillo, 32, was diagnosed with end stage renal disease in June 2008 while still working as a waitress at Kingfisher Golf Links.

She was seven to eight months pregnant when diagnosed with the disease. Her hospital bills at the time were paid for by her employer.

On June 28, she went home to the Philippines for treatment until her work permit expired in November. She has since been on hemodialysis twice a week.

Dr. Concesa B. Cabanayan-Casasola, attending nephrologists at the National Kidney and Transplant Institute in Manila,

said the institute is contemplating kidney transplantation to improve Jaramillo's quality of life.

The total expense is estimated at \$28,333 or some 1.36 million Philippine pesos.

These include recipient and donor work up, P100,000; kidney transplant operation inclusive of rooms, laboratory tests, operating rooms and oral medicine, P450,000; anti-rejection injections, P460,000; and professional fees, P450,000.

Josie Cunanan, an employee at Kingfisher Golf Links, yesterday said the National Kidney and Transplant Institute already found a matching kidney for Jaramilla.

"She sent me and her sister [Raingie] a fax message requesting for financial assistance for this purpose," she told Saipan Tribune.

Raingie Jaramillo, the patient's sister, said they greatly appreciate any donation for her

essage. If their owners would still like to receive Mind" via e-mail, please send a currently valid e-mail address to <ruth.tighe@pticom.com>. THANKS!

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<deq.director@saipan.com>, <edr46@itecnmi.com>, <ericka@saipan.com>,

<evangelistae@pss.cnmi.mp>, <fajardo@saipan.com>

Donations can be made payable to Rustan's Foreign Exchange, which will assist in expediting remittance to the Philippines. A donation box is also placed at Rustan's Foreign Exchange in Chalan Kanoa.

Cunanan and Raingie Jaramillo said they are also happy to pick up any donation. They can be reached at 322-1100 or 484-0792.

For those who wish to send their donations directly to Ramia Jaramillo in the Philippines, her address is: #79 Saleng Tayug, Pangasinan, Philippines.

"We issued receipts for all financial assistance that we received in the past for her dialysis treatment and showed it to Ramia to give her additional strength that there are a lot of people who wish her well and who are here to help her," said Cunanan.

Yesterday, Cunanan provided a list of those who earlier helped pay for Jaramillo's di-

alvsis in the Philippines due to end-stage kidney failure.

They included Gov. Benigno R. Fitial, Finance Secretary Eloy S. Inos, the Philippine Consulate General, Kingfisher Golf Links management and staff, Nick and Rea Leon Guerrero and MCV staff, Joven and Precy Cruz and Rustan's Foreign Exchange staff, Paul Cielo and family, Sonny Flores and family, Robert Correa and family, Raymond Vergara, the Mission Connection Christian Ministry, and the Upper Room International Christian Ministry.

The management and staff of the following companies also previously helped Jaramillo: CTSI Logistics, National Office Supply, Horizons Inc., Tropex Garden Co. Ltd., JPC Security Services, Le Queen Printing Inc., Elite Printing/RJL, Saipan Tribune, Pacific Trading, Saipan Carport, Pacific Islands Club, FGC Company, and Landscapers Micronesia.

Secretary of Health in Solomons sacked

HONIARA, Solomon Islands (Solomon Star/PIR)—The government has fired the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Health Dr George Malefoasi.

Dr. Lester Ross is now the new Permanent Secretary.

Government sources said Dr Malefoasi received his termination letter just before the Easter

No immediate reasons were given for the termination.

Secretary to Cabinet Ruth Liloqula yesterday confirmed the sacking, but declined to provide reasons for the action.

"I'm not at liberty to reveal reasons in such cases which might tarnish the reputation of the person concern," she said.

Liloqulo added permanent secretaries are politically appointed by the Prime Minister's Office and they be terminated at any time



April 17, 2000

CNMI files protest against Continental

The Commonwealth Ports Authority on Friday wrote the U.S. Department of Transportation decrying Continental Micronesia's treatment of Saipan and Guam as co-terminals which CNMI officials claimed has adversely impacted CNMI's tourism industry. This is the first formal protest lodged by the CNMI government against the decision of the Continental Micronesia to drop direct international flights to and from the Northern Marianas. In a letter addressed to the federal transportation department, Ports Authority Board Chair Roman S. Palacios said CPA could not rally behind Continental's application to renew its regular flights to Sapporo and Sendai in Japan.

Young lauds labor and business reforms

Two crucial legislation on labor and business reforms passed recently by the House of Representatives have drawn support by some members of the U.S. Congress, boding well for the efforts to spur the local economy, according to Speaker Benigno R. Fitial. He said U.S. House Resources Committee Chair Rep. Don Young (R-Alaska) is "very pleased" with the passage of the twin measures "because he believes that we are doing the right thing." House Bill 12-39 or the Omnibus Labor and Business Reform Act sponsored by Mr. Fitial was presented by the House delegation visiting Washington D.C. last week, along with the other measure also offered by the speaker, the CNMI Fair Labor Standards Act.

April 17, 2001

CUC bares fiscal conditions

The Commonwealth Utilities Corporation yesterday submitted the comprehensive financial report ordered by the Legislature in light of the ongoing joint inquiry on its \$150 million outstanding loan to the Commonwealth Development Authority. House Committee on Public Utilities, Transportation and Communication Chair Rosiky Camacho disclosed CUC met the deadline set by the Legislature and filed the report late yesterday afternoon. Mr. Camacho said the utility corporation submitted loads of documents, discussing CUC's financial status, revenues, losses and other loan agreements it has signed with other financing institutions.

Kagman needs new textbooks

The Public School System recently approved the release of about \$60,000 in total funds for the procurement of more than 600 textbooks needed by students of the newly-opened Kagman Elementary School. School principal Ignacia Demapan disclosed in an interview yesterday that procurement of more than 600 language and arts textbooks are now underway. Only recently, PSS also approved the procurement of new textbooks on Science, Mathematics, and Social Studies, Ms. Demapan added. However, the school administration needs to stretch its budget to afford procurement of at least 25 Science safety kits. She said orders were earlier placed but were called off due to a budget shortfall.

April 17, 2002

NMI popular as wedding destination

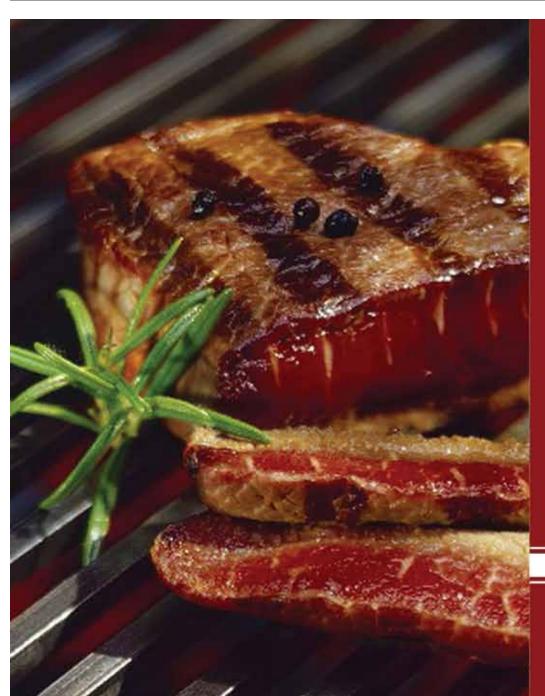
The September 11 terror attacks in the United States recoiled positively to the Northern Marianas, which, along with Guam, has been cited by travelers from Japan as one of the preferred wedding destinations around the world. This, even as the Japan Travel Bureau disclosed that reservations for honeymoon trips to the islands dropped by 4.6 percent from 95.8 in the 2001 Spring Honeymoon Season to this year's 93.4 percent. This may be attributed to the decline in overseas wedding ceremonies during the same season, which dropped from 560 last year to 472 this year.

Once more with feelings: Diversify

As tourism remains to be the CNMI economy's bread and butter together with the apparel sector, the Pacific Asia Travel Association said the Commonwealth needs to tap other tourist markets, particularly Europe, just as another Pacific country— Palau—has penetrated the region. "Palau has an agent and a tourism office in Germany. They're really attracting a lot of tourists from Europe, from Germany, specifically to Palau for diving," said Carmen C. Gaskins, special project committee chair of PATA's Micronesia Chapter. "We can coordinate and cooperate with that, and have a share market." Gaskins made the statement in an interview yesterday, after her speaking engagement at the Environmental Symposium held at the Saipan Diamond Hotel Although she recognized that the bulk of tourist visitors on Saipan are Japanese, she said the CNMI should expand its market not only to the nearby regional vicinities.



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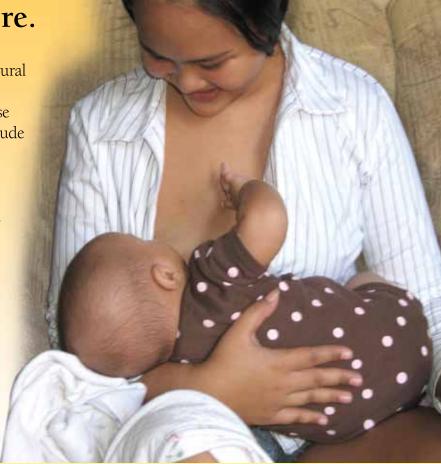








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EDITORIAL

Clarity in need of courage

resident Obama's speech on the economy this week was, on many fronts, very good. He explained with clarity the causes of the economic meltdown. He pushed back against faulty arguments from the right that stimulus spending is irresponsible and from the left that money shouldn't be funneled to the banks. He avoided unwarranted optimism about recovery—particularly important if he has to ask Congress for another round of stimulus or bailout spending—without being so bearish as to talk the economy down. He made the case that helping Wall Street is necessary for helping Main Street, even discussing the "multiplier effect"—how one dollar spent in the right place can lead to multiple dollars making their way through the economy. You couldn't help feeling relief at the competence and calm the president conveyed.

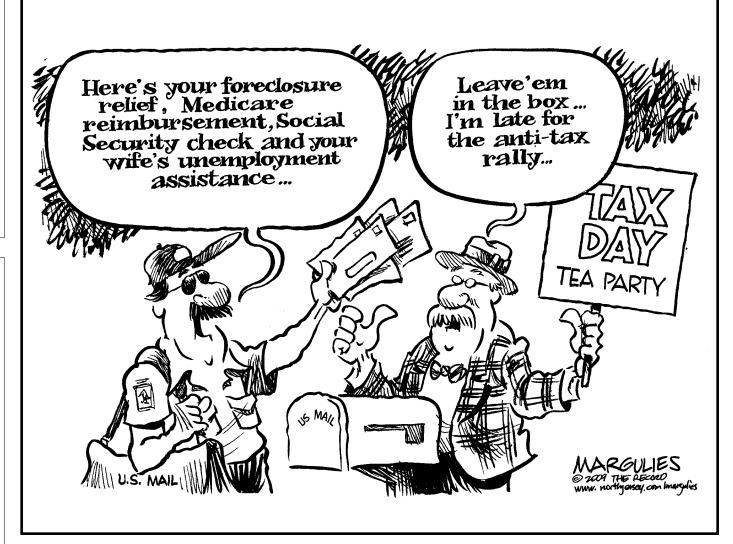
It is all the more disappointing, then, when Mr. Obama overstates his case in one crucial area and loses all candor and courage in another. The overstating comes in linking his policy agenda to the economic recovery. The agenda focuses on education, renewable energy and health care. These are all worthy pursuits, areas where we support many of his proposals. But as his admirable summation of recent history made clear, these pursuits have little to do with the economic crisis, and they are not the key to economic recovery. The recovery will result from successfully transitioning away from an economy overly dependent on debt and the American consumer, unclogging the banking system, stabilizing housing—and dealing with the fiscal imbalances facing the country that were bad before, are worse now and, if left unattended, could well cause the next crisis.

Mr. Obama spoke eloquently about this, too. "Along with defense and interest on the national debt, the biggest costs in our budget are entitlement programs like Medicare, Medicaid, and Social Security that get more and more expensive every year," he said. "So if we want to get serious about fiscal discipline—and I do—then ... we will also have to get serious about entitlement reform."

But that is the one area where Mr. Obama in fact seems to lack all seriousness—where the candor and courage go missing. Many of the savings identified in the president's budget are phony, and the real ones are used to offset the costs of his new spending increases or tax cuts. He maintained this week that "health-care reform is entitlement reform." But the health-care savings he has identified are all directed to new health-care spending, and, even then, they cover only a fraction of the likely costs of a health-care bill—of what would become yet another entitlement program. Meanwhile, the keys to fixing Social Security are well known and far easier than health-care reform, but Mr. Obama this week deferred that challenge to some vanishing point on the horizon: "Once we tackle rising health-care costs, we must also work to put Social Security on firmer footing."

We understand that spending more on education, energy and health care is an easy sell to a Democratic Congress, while deficit reduction and entitlement reform are hard. We thought the president had signed up for both.

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The smart are scared. The others aren't.

his week has been an unholy mix of totally busy and utterly unproductive. I've spent much of it burning through cell phone minutes as pals and acquaintances have been calling in semi-panics over economic stuff. On Saipan as well as the mainland, the middle- or entrenched- classes are still smug at best, and mildly angst-ridden at worst, but a few outliers with sharper insight are getting scared out of their wits when they take a hard look at the economic data.

Maybe I'll open my own economic therapy hotline.

Over the past few weeks I've tried to bring some optimistic themes to my column, but when I recently referred to gloom and doom in the world economy, I was not implying that the gloomy doom isn't justified. It is justified. And, yes, I've pointed out that Saipan holds some economic opportunities, but I also pointed out that the gig is null and void if Uncle Sam can't afford to cut the checks any longer. And, yes, though Saipan's economic backyard, Asia, is, in the long run, going to emerge as the world's economic leader, it's possible, maybe even very likely, that there are going to be years of painful economic turmoil between now and then.

I hate to be a Johnny-One-Note on this stuff, and I'd rather contemplate other things besides economics every week. Unless I thought this was a huge issue that will have a substantial impact on your life, I wouldn't bother to address it so often.

Very keen minds over the years have used the terms "mass movements" and "public spectacles" to describe economic situations that have veered into disaster. There is a mass, social element to any economic context, and this is where I really get befuddled: Never

By ED STEPHENS

Ed is a pilot, economist, and writer. He holds a degree in economics from UCLA and is a former U.S. naval officer. His column runs every Friday. Visit Ed at TropicalEd.com and SaipanBlog.com.



before have I seen such a glaring disconnect between public perception of economics (which, again, is now either smug or mildly worried) and the perception that knowledgeable people have (which can be characterized as "totally freaked out.")

Part of this mass neurosis of denial is the pathological penchant to use raw emotion instead of cold rationality when it comes to economics. Saipan has always done this; wishful thinking is what made La Fiesta into La Fiasco, and what turned a tourism economy into a food stamp economy. But America has joined that doomed outlook, and America, as I keep reminding you, is what increasingly funds Saipan's action.

So, here or there, people can't accept data as data, numbers as numbers, or trends as trends; no, if they hear something they don't like hearing, they'll deride it as mere "gloom and doom," thus condemning the messenger and ignoring the message.

Why does this matter? It matters because of the way markets move. When markets are irrational (and, now, I believe that they

See THE SMART on Next Page

Letter to the Editor

Dead wrong

My friend Zaldy Dandan's editorial segment in Thursday's *Variety* titled "A big problem" is dead wrong. Zaldy asserts that the Labor Department is denying "more" labor permits and that is a "problem." The Labor Department processes applications from employers more quickly and efficiently than in prior years. Deficiencies and denials are cleared up or decided promptly. Workers are cleared to work much faster than in prior years.

So Zaldy, would you have us grant labor permits for employers who are running scams and collecting money from foreign workers when there is no job available at all?

Would you have us grant labor permits for employers who have no demonstrable resources with which to pay the workers and thus cause more labor cases about unpaid wages?

Would you have us grant labor permits for employers whose

work premises present health and safety hazards?

Would you have us grant labor permits to employers who have had multiple labor cases in the past and have been barred from hiring more foreign workers?

The Labor Department has better automated processes now, and we can weed out unqualified employers efficiently. However, you fail to point out that when we disqualify an employer, we always give the foreign worker another chance to transfer if the worker was not at fault in the employer's failure to qualify.

Your criticism is unfounded and unfair. This Administration has no intent to shrink the foreign worker population in advance of a change in federal law. In fact, we have consistently argued that foreign workers are a valuable part of the community and should not be forcibly deported as the federalization law contemplates. The Labor Department tries hard to work with the foreign worker groups and their representatives to minimize adverse impacts on workers and on the community.

Jacinta M. Kaipat
Deputy Secretary of Labor

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The colors of laws

aws are often colored by the minds of those who enact them. And while I grant without comment that all law-makers have minds, I do in many cases wonder about the relative IQs with which some of those minds are possessed. Ah, but the colors.

Those of us, who watch Law and Order on television or for that matter any of its spinoffs, of which there are several, have heard the term "black letter" law more than once. Black letter law is that law which is considered basal and beyond doubt or debate. Well, actually one can debate anything, but for now we'll go with the above definition.

We have green laws that are meant to refer to laws created, presumably, to improve the environment we live in. Some examples of these are the laws against the use of *chlorofluorocarbons*_in aerosol cans, or again, laws mandating lower carbon emissions from automobiles and the like. All laudable legal products you will agree.

And then we have blue laws. And dear readers, the following are not jokes, they are real laws—some are local and some are state laws.

Massachusetts has a law that makes it illegal to go to bed without first taking a full bath. One has to wonder how the police would enforce that one.

Lee County, Alabama has made it illegal to sell peanuts after sundown on Wednesdays. That's probably the night that the local church has its weekly bingo game and wants to sell the peanuts itself.

California, that paragon of modernity, has made it a law to ban the mating of animals within 1,500 feet of taverns, schools, or places of worship. Excuse me! I can understand the need to ban such lewd behavior near schools and churches, but from around taverns! Don't get me started.

Mississippi has some of the strangest laws, some so strange that I dare not include them here. But, one caught my special interest. It is illegal in Mississippi to teach others what polygamy is. What? No mention of polyandry! Talk about chauvinistic laws and lawmakers.

And how about cowboy country—Wyoming. In Wyoming it is illegal for a woman to stand within five feet of a bar while drinking. Oh yeah, that's going to go over well with the National Organization for Women. Or again Wyoming...

"You may not take a picture of a rabbit from January to April without an official permit." The lawmakers that passed this law must have been standing much closer to the bar than they allow women to.

And then there is Michigan. Michigan has some of the most interesting blue laws around. For instance, any person over the age of 12 may have a license for a handgun as long as he or she has not been convicted of a felony. One has to wonder how many 12-year-old felons reside in the state of Michigan. Or again in Michigan...

Now this one gets me. "Michigan's second-highest court says that anyone involved in an extramarital fling (read adultery) can be

By STEPHEN B. SMITH

Special to the Saipan Tribune

Stephen B. Smith is the Accreditation, Language Arts, and National Forensic League coordinator for the Public School System Central Office.



prosecuted for first-degree criminal sexual conduct, a felony punishable by up to life in prison."

Now folks, life in prison? Think about it. How many of you out there in readerland know of any such goings on? Or, perish the thought, are guilty of such goings on? I will refrain from hazarding a guess. But there is hope in Michigan. The legislative act creating the law has been repealed, but such repeal will not take effect until October 2010. I guess we can call that progress, can't we?

The current Congress of the United States is under fire for what are called "earmarks." Earmarks are add-ons to bills that are essentially indirect graft on the part of the lawmaker seeking such. But, at least earmarks have a rationale, i.e., greed. But blue laws? There is no rationale for most of them, other that is, than the sub-rodent level IQs of their creators.

Letters to the Editor

The insolvency of the NMI Retirement Fund

Trustees of the Retirement Fund are responsible for policymaking issues of the organization. It makes decisions on the hiring of money managers—experts on investments—the annual budget of the fund, among others.

It seems fair game for trustees to shift the financial debacle of the Fund to the administration and Legislature. In fact, trustees conveniently ignore that it *is* a part of this messy equation but want us to look the other way rather than taking a critical look at its ineptitude. While it shifts the blame, the program sinks deeper into the red sea of insolvency. What has it done to help resolve, with finality, issues that should have been discussed in deliberative fashion over what's politically incorrect?

As a member of the Fund, I know it is vital to unravel issues that have been sidestepped by the Fund as it promotes all the wrong information. For instance, in the hiring of money managers, have trustees imposed accountability to this group of experts on investment recommendations that end up in losses by the millions of dollars? Have trustees diligently looked into this vital aspect involving failed investments? It is obvious that trustees have simply allowed

these managers to go scot-free as though the Fund still has millions more to spend wastefully, freely! It is tantamount to the stimulus package of *unbridled spending*, only to result in the Tea Party where taxpayers are saying, "Keep Your Change" or "Chains we don't deserve!"

Understandably, it is difficult navigating investment opportunities under the volatility of the prevailing global financial crisis. But then, isn't it prudent for trustees to liquidate investment portfolios in order to avert further losses in Fund money by the millions of dollars as has happened recently? What does it take to bring you into equilibristic reality check?

Why wasn't this step undertaken in the interest of protecting retirees and members? Was it too difficult an undertaking, therefore trustees had to engage in the baseless and useless blame game to cover its incompetence? Why can't trustees admit that they are equally a part of the problem in the Fund's financial debacle? You seem to be running out of excuses in your bag of tricks, right?

Trustees wanted the administration to cough up what's owed in employer's contribution. But isn't it true that forcing the issue simply means including taxes paid into the local coffers by the private

sector and their employees? Why should they be penalized when they have nothing to do with the Fund nor are they slated to benefit by paying for someone else's incompetence? Why would you kill Jose so that Juan can live? Please, you have bankrupted the system; let's veer off private sector taxpayer lawsuits.

It would also be prudent for the Fund to demonstrate to retirees and members what has it done in the last four years to cut operations expenses of the Fund. Let's see your annual budget, including salaries for personnel, payments for vendors and who are these vendors, among other things. We deserve to know!

Finally, if at the end of another imperfect day you can't resolve issues I have raised hereinabove, perhaps it's best you do it Japanese style: Resign! We deserve nothing less than reasoned and competent disposition of the issues at hand. Did someone boasts he's an expert on solutions? Step up to the plate, sir. I challenge you to resolve this issue with finality!

John S. DelRosario, Jr. As Gonno, Saipan

Let the Education Department handle the money

It's a shame that the governor would side with other governors from the U.S. Virgin Island, Guam and American Samoa by asking President Obama to let the Department of the Interior administer the stabilization funds, and not the Department of Education. This in itself speaks volumes that you as our governor is not a leader but a follower and that your fight defending self-governance is nothing but a joke. As the leader of our homeland why would you care about how the rest of the insular areas spend their educational stimulus, or who controls it for that matter.

Such a letter to the president of the United States at a time when you are suing the federal government on our right to selfgovernance is somewhat ridiculous. This in itself is blatantly admitting incompetence that truly our own government can't handle the accountability and responsibility of federal funds, completely contradicting your lawsuit defending our right to self-governance.

If the Department of Education had no accountability or responsibility over federal funds entrusted to them well over two decades, then we would all be in deep trouble and both local and federal agents would be storming our Public School System and charging everyone with a crime. But to date we had not heard of any such incident.

The most complaints that we had heard from teachers, students, administrators and the community were the unjustified reprogram-

ming and reprogramming our children's educational funding by a governor that uses and abuses his executive authority then turns around and states his named was forged.

This is serious issue concerning the much needed funding for our Public School Systems, something our government does not have. Therefore we believe every effort to obtain the stabilization funds must be prioritized, since every elected official in our homeland had made "education" a top priority in their platforms, including the Better Times camp.

Gregorio Cruz Jr.

Taotao Tano CNMI Inc.

A modest proposal

If nothing else, the recent controversy over the clearing of public land has raised the issue of homesteads in the public eye. Like so many ideas, the program to give landless local residents a parcel of land to build their homes on is a noble one. But like so many other good ideas it has been abused. What I don't understand is why anyone would propose establishing new homestead areas anywhere on Saipan when so many lots already assigned are going to

waste. Drive through any homestead area and you will find numerous overgrown abandoned lots. In the As Matuis homestead area I would estimate 25 percent of the lots have never been built on or have had only minimal construction started. This tells us several things. First, there are people applying for lots who don't really need them. If they did, they would live there. Secondly, people who might have had use for a lot at one time are packing up and leav-

ing the CNMI because of the economy. And thirdly, the homestead program's own regulations are not being enforced. Recipients are supposed to construct homes within a certain number of years. This requirement is being ignored.

Meanwhile, the people who have played by the rules and sacrificed their time and money to build on their homestead lots are See A MODEST on Page 13

THE SMART

From Page 10

are), they can get totally unhinged at some point when reality hits home. Which is to say, the slow, incremental, self-adjusting, and self-correcting nature of markets, and the economies built atop them, is gone, replaced with the potential flash points of panic.

Based on the numbers (numbers, I said; not feelings, not faith, not hope, not politics, not self-esteem, not goals, not wants, not wishful thinking, but just plain cold, hard, stark numbers) that are on my desk, the very capital structure that supports the U.S., and, by extension, the CNMI, appears totally, utterly, and maybe irredeemably distorted to the point of breakage. We're in the "hockey stick" mode of near vertical growth in toxic credit and quasi-credit, and ditto for deficits. It's out of control.

Saipan's residents would be well-advised to think for themselves when it comes to economics in these weird times. There's simply nowhere else to turn.

But lest you think I'm a lone crank, I'll close with this quote: "What we face now could, in fact, be worse than the Great Depression." That was written by Prof. Simon Johnson in the May 2009 issue of the *Atlantic* magazine; he's a former chief economist with the International Monetary Fund.

12 FRIDAY, APRIL 17, 2009 SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian



Mostly sunny with a slight chance of showers. East winds 15 to 20 mph.

.8**7**° **▼77°**



Partly cloudy with isolated showers. Fast winds 10 to 20 mph.

▲87° ▼77°



Partly cloudy with

▲87°

isolated showers.

▼77°



isolated showers.

▲87° ▼77°



Partly cloudy with

isolated showers.

▲87° ▼77°

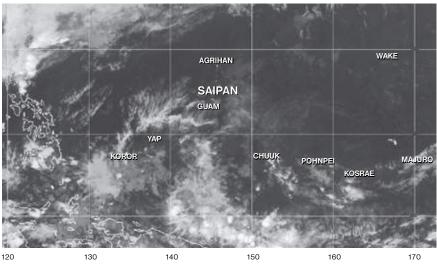
Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Sunny	▲ 86 ▼ 77
Palau	Rain	▲ 85 ▼ 77
Yap	Rain	▲ 88 ▼ 77
Chuuk	Showers	≜ 88 ▼ 77
Pohnpei	Showers	▲ 86 ▼ 79
Kosrae	Rain	▲ 87 ▼ 81
Majuro	Showers	▲ 88 ▼ 79

Around The Globe

Auckland	Partly Sunny	▲ 68	₹59
Beijing	Mostly Cloudy	▲ 72	▼ 50
Hong Kong	Thundershowers	s ≜ 81	▼ 73
Honolulu	Showers	▲ 77	▼ 71
London	Showers	▲ 63	▼52
Los Angeles	Mostly Sunny	▲ 70	▼ 52
Manila	Cloudy	▲ 92	₹78
Melbourne	Mostly Sunny	▲ 78	▼ 61
Miami	Mostly Sunny	▲ 86	₹72
New York	Mostly Cloudy	▲ 49	▼ 42
Osaka	Rain	▲ 65	▼54
Paris	Showers	▲ 62	▼ 54
Pusan	Cloudy	▲ 71	▼52
Rome	Sunny	▲ 70	▼51
Salem	Partly Sunny	4 9	▼34
San Francisco	Sunny	▲ 60	₹45
Seoul	Mostly Sunny	▲ 75	▼50
Tokyo	Showers	▲ 68	▼ 56
Washington, DC	Rain	\$ 50	▼44

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, THURSDAY, APRIL 16, 2009

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A cold front extends southwestward from 25N143E to beyond 130E at 19N. Cloudiness and scattered showers are found along and up to 200 miles northwest of a line from 25N150E to 20N130E. A near-equatorial trough extends eastward from 2N130E to a weak circulation near 2N135E then continues southeastward to end at EQ140E. Low-level convergence coupled with upper-level divergence is causing scattered showers and a few thunderstorms near Palau and south of Yap in an area between the equator and 8N from 130E to 140E. Low-level convergence is triggering scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms south of Guam and southwest of Chuuk in an area from 11N144E to 10N147E to EQ149E to EQ143E to 7N141E back to 11N144E. A surface trough is northward from 2N157E to 7N156E. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms from Pohnpei to Kosrae are in an area from 8N156E to 6N164E to 3N160E back to 8N156E. Trade-wind convergence is producing scattered showers in two areas. One area is from near Kosrae eastward into the Marshall Islands just south of Majuro or within 150 miles of a line from 5N164E to 5N172E. The second area southeast of Butaritari is east of a line from 3N173E to EQ173E.

Tides Saipan Harbor 2:24 AM Today High Tide: 1.6 Feet 7:29 AM Today Low Tide: 1.3 Feet 11:30 AM Today High Tide: 1.5 Feet 7:34 PM Today Low Tide: 0.2 Feet

Sı	ınrise/Suns	set
Today	6:02 AM	6:32 PM
Saturday	6:01 AM	6:32 PM
Sunday	6:00 AM	6:32 PM
Monday	6:00 AM	6:32 PM
Tuesday	5:59 AM	6:32 PM

Today	12:17 AM	11:44 AM
Saturday	1:00 AM	12:35 PM
Sunday	1:41 AM	1:25 PM
Monday	2:19 AM	2:14 PM
Tuesday	2:56 AM	3:04 PM

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

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- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS
- A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings are other activities by members of the business community. ■ SAMU'T SARI
- Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc. ■ TRAVELOGUE
- Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

NMI CRIME

STOPPERS

ANNOUNCEMENTS

■ COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Announcements of upcoming activities of organiza tions, community clubs, government agencies, and

private companies.

Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

REQUIREMENTS

For pictures:

- otos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the Saipan Tribune to publish the pictures. ■ Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of
- 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months. ■ For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

■ Must have complete details (who, what, where, when),

the name of contact person, and a phone number. ■ Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

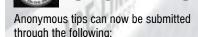
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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF MARCH 12, 2009

ARRIVALS

4:00am

1.2.3.4.7

5.6 via Rota

Daily

Daily

Daily

Daily

Daily

Daily

Daily

Daily

1.2

4.6

via Osaka

2:20am+1 3,5,7

Guam-Saipan CO 9316 2:30am 3:20am

Narita-Saipan

Narita-Guam

Osaka-Saipan

Osaka-Guam

Nagoya-Saipan

Nagova-Guam

Incheon-Saipan

OZ 120

OZ 605 9:00am 2:20pm

7:10pm

Busan-Saipan

Guam-Rota

Palau-Guam CO 954 2:30am 5:25am

Manila-Palau

Manila-Guam

Manila-Nagoya

Manila-Narita

CO 892 2:35am 5:30am

Shanghai-Saipan

OZ 603 7:40pm 1:00am+1 7

OZ 603 8:10pm 1:30am+1 1,2,3,4,5,6

OZ 607 9:00pm 2:10am+1 3,4,6,7

FM 843 7:15pm 1:50am+11,5

CO 9598 2:30am 3:00am 5,6

CO 892 10:10pm 1:50am+1 3,5

CO 934 11:10pm 4:40am+1 Daily PR 110 10:10pm 4:00am+1 1,3,5,6,7

NW 72 6:30am 11:05am Daily

OZ 724 12:30am 4:50am Daily

OZ 7183 12:45am 5:05am 1,4,6

7:45am 12:40pm Daily

OZ 722 1:30pm 5:45pm Daily

Hongkong-Incheon

CO 892 10:10pm 5:30am+1 3,5 via Koror

NW 74 9:45am 2:20pm

NW 82 10:30am 3:10pm

NW 076 10:15am 2:40pm Daily

NW 100 8:45pm 1:10am+1 Daily

OZ 120 9:50pm 2:20am+1 3,5,7

NW 80 10:30am 3:00pm Daily

NW 077 9:00pm 1:20am+1 Daily

NW 24 10:00am 2:30pm Daily

NW 077 6:25pm 1:20am+1 2.3.4.5.6.7

Saipan-Rota Rota-Saipan CO 9598 3:25am 4:00am CO9597 11:50am 12:25pm 1.7 Saipan-Guam CO9317 5:00am 5:50am Daily CO9313 8:30am 9:20am Daily CO9598 2:30am CO9597 11:50am 1:20pm 1,7 via Rota CO9596 7:00am 7:50am CO9601 12:30pm CO9600 10:20am 11:10am 1:20pm 2,3,4,5,6 CO9603 3:30pm 4:20pm Daily CO9602 2:00pm 2:50pm CO9604 5:00nm 5:50nm CO9605 6:30pm 7:20pm Daily CO9599 9:30pm 10:20pm Daily CO9606 8:00pm 8:50pm

DEPARTURES

Saipan-Narita NW 099 5:00am 7:35am Daily NW 078 8:20am 1:30pm 2,3,4,5,6,7 7:30pm Daily NW 075 4:55pm

Guam-Narita NW 73 4:10pm 7:00pm Daily NW 81 3:55pm 6:55pm Daily

Saipan-Osaka OZ 119 4:00am 6:40am 1.4.6

Guam-Osaka NW 79 4:45pm 7:35pm Daily

Saipan-Nagoya 11:05am Daily NW 078 8:20am Guam-Nagova

NW 23 4:30pm 7:20pm Daily

Saipan-Incheon OZ 604 2:10am 6:00am O7 604 2:40am 6:30am 2.3.4.5.6.7 OZ 119 4:00am 11:25am 1,4,6 via Osaka OZ 606 3:20pm 7:00pm Daily

Saipan-Busan OZ 608 3:20am 6:50am 1,4,5,7

Saipan-Shanghai

FM 844 2:50am 5:40am 2.6 Rota-Guam CO 9597 12:50pm 1:20pm 1,7

Guam-Palau CO 953 7:40pm 8:40pm 1,7 CO 893 5:50pm 6:50pm 3,5

Palau-Manila

PR 111 6:00am

CO 893 7:35pm 9:10pm 3,5 **Guam-Manila** CO 893 5:50pm 9:10pm 3,5 via Koror CO 933 8:00pm 9:40pm Daily

7:50am

1,2,4,6,7

Nagoya-Manila NW 71 8:40pm 11:55pm Daily

Incheon-Hongkong OZ 721 9:20am 12:00pm Daily OZ 723 7:45pm 10:35pm Daily OZ 7173 8:00pm 10:50pm 5,7

Narita-Manila 7:00pm 10:55pm Daily

Editor's Note: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); CO: Continental; FM: Shanghai Airlines; PR: Philippine Airlines: NW: Northwest: OZ: Asiana

NW 2

ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

	MAAS		ш
Airline	ETD E	TA Frequ	ency
Guam-R	ota		
FRE 100	7:00am	7:30am	Daily
Rota-Sa			
FRE 100	7:50am	8:20am	Daily
Saipan-l	9:00am	9:30am	Dail
Rota-Gu FRE 200	9:50am	10:15am	Dail
Guam-R FRE 300	4:00pm	4:30pm	Dail
Rota-Sa		4.00pm	Daii
FRE 300	4:50pm	5:25pm	Dail
Saipan-			
FRE 400	6:00pm	6:30pm	Dail
Rota-G	uam 6:45pm	7:15pm	Dail
Saipan-			
FRE 101	6:45am	6:55am	Daily
FRE 103	7:30am	7:40am	Daily
FRE 105	8:00am	8:10am	Daily
FRE 107	8:40am	8:50am	Dail
FRE 109*	9:10am	9:20am	Daily
FRE 111*	10:45am	10:55am	Daily

Airline	ETD E	TA Frequ	ency
FRE 113	11:40am	11:50am	Daily
FRE 115	1:00pm	1:10pm	Daily
FRE 117	2:30pm	2:40pm	Daily
FRE 119	4:00pm	4:10pm	Daily
FRE 121	4:40pm	4:50pm	Daily
FRE 123 *	5:40pm	5:50pm	Daily
FRE 125 *	6:00pm	6:10pm	Daily
Tinian-Sa	ipan w/	connecti	ng

flights to Rota or Guam**

	ingino to		- au	
	FRE 102	7:05am	7:15am	Daily
,	FRE 104	7:50am	8:00am	Daily
	FRE 106**	8:20am	8:30am	Daily
	FRE 108**	9:00am	9:10am	Daily
	FRE 110	10:00am	10:10am	Daily
,	FRE 112	11:05am	11:15am	Daily
	FRE 114	12:00pm	12:10pm	Daily
	FRE 116	1:30pm	1:40pm	Daily
,	FRE 118	2:50pm	3:00pm	Daily
	FRE 120**	4:20pm	4:30pm	Daily
	FRE 122**	5:00pm	5:10pm	Daily
,	FRE 124	6:05pm	6:15pm	Daily
,	FRE 126	6:20pm	6:30pm	Daily

Legal children of illegal immigrants snarl policy

By N.C. AIZENMAN

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WASHINGTON—The number of U.S.-citizen children born to illegal immigrants has dramatically increased over the past five years from 2.7 million in 2003 to 4 million in 2008, according to a study released Tuesday.

The report by the nonpartisan, Washington-based Pew Hispanic Center also found that more than a third of such children were in poverty in 2007, compared with about 18 percent of those born to either legal immigrants or U.S.-born parents. Similarly, one in four U.S.-born children of unauthorized immigrants went without health insurance in 2008, compared with 14 percent of those born to legal immigrants and 8 percent born to U.S.-born parents.

The findings suggest that the impact of the unprecedented spike in illegal immigration over the past three decades will continue to be felt for years to come, even as the size of the illegal immigrant population itself appears to have leveled off since 2006 at about 10.4 million adults and 1.5 million children. Children born on U.S. soil are automatically granted U.S. citizenship.

The study, which analyzed census statistics, found that U.S.born children now account for 73 percent of all children of illegal immigrants. And children of illegal immigrants—including those born overseas—now account for 6.8 percent of elementary and secondary school students nationwide and more than one in 10 students in Arizona, California, Colorado, Nevada and Texas.

(The Census Bureau does not ask people their immigration status. So the authors used a technique that essentially estimates the number of legal immigrants using other government records such as visas issued, then subtracts that population from the total number of foreign born counted by the census to come up with the number of illegal immigrants.)

The spike in births to unauthorized immigrants is largely due to their relative youth compared with the general population, while many of the challenges faced by their U.S.born children can be explained by the parents' far lower rates of education and lack of access to jobs where legal status is stringently checked. According to the study, among unauthorized immigrants ages 25 to 65, nearly a third have less than a ninth-grade education compared with 13 percent of legal immigrants and 2 percent of U.S.-born residents.

The findings also reinforced the unprecedented geographic dispersal of illegal immigrants since 1990 across southeastern states with little prior history of immigration.

While longtime magnets such as Florida, Illinois, New Jersey, New York and Texas retained their appeal—and California continues to house the largest number of unauthorized immigrantsgrowth there has slowed. By contrast, the illegal immigrant population of Virginia increased by 9 percent since 2005, to 300,000 in 2008. The state ranks 10th in the size of its unauthorized immigrant population.

A MODEST

From Page 11

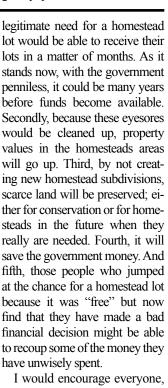
subjected to living in the midst of rat infested abandoned eyesores. I don't know what the government's real cost is to prepare a homestead lot, but it must be in the tens of thousands of dollars when clearing, surveying, utilities, and road construction is considered. So, before any more homestead subdivisions are proposed I would suggest the following: Lots that have been awarded but have not been built on within the required time frame should be taken back by the government. In cases where homes have been constructed but abandoned (and there are many) the government could consider buying back the properties but paying only for the cost of improvements, not the land itself. The value of the improvements could easily be established by two independent appraisers and be signed off by the public auditor. These properties could then be awarded to people on the homestead waiting list.

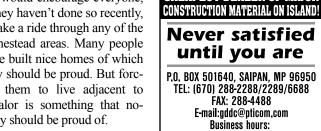
The above would accomplish several things. First, many people on the waiting list with a

lot would be able to receive their lots in a matter of months. As it stands now, with the government penniless, it could be many years before funds become available. Secondly, because these eyesores would be cleaned up, property values in the homesteads areas will go up. Third, by not creating new homestead subdivisions. scarce land will be preserved; either for conservation or for homesteads in the future when they really are needed. Fourth, it will save the government money. And fifth, those people who jumped at the chance for a homestead lot because it was "free" but now find that they have made a bad financial decision might be able to recoup some of the money they

if they haven't done so recently, to take a ride through any of the homestead areas. Many people have built nice homes of which they should be proud. But forcing them to live adjacent to squalor is something that nobody should be proud of.

Ron Fusco Capital Hill, Saipan







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2X4X16 - \$4.50	2X4X16 - \$7.70
2X4X18 - \$5.00	2X4X18 - \$8.80
2X4X20 - \$5.60	2X4X20 - \$9.60
2X6X12 - \$6.70	2X6X12 - \$10.00
2X6X14 - \$7.60	2X6X14 - \$11.00
2X6X16 - \$8.90	2X6X16 - \$13.00
2X6X18 - \$9.90	2X6X18 - \$14.50
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STOCK	YEAR	MODEL	TRANS,	MILEAGE	COLOR	LICENSE #	PRICE	REDUCED PRICE
TOY	OT/	A SEDANS						
R08-022B	2005	ECHO 4DR	AUT0	70447	AQUA	ADH-691	7,999	
R08-019F	2005	COROLLA 4DR	AUTO	41092	WHITE	ACD-346	10,799	8,999
R09-004B	2004	CAMRY LE 4DR	AUTO	100808	GRAY	ACB-770	9,999	
R09-005F	2006	MATRIX BASE	AUTO	57427	SILVER	ABZ-639	10,999	
GM	CAF	RS						
R08-014F	2006	AVEO 4DR.	AUTO	33945	WHITE	ADS-642	9,999	7,299
R07-013F	2005	AVEO HATCHBACK	AUTO	39164	ORANGE	ADO-022	9,599	6,899
R07-034F	2005	OPTRA 4DR.	AUTO	14592	SILVER	ACD-020	10,999	9,499
LEX	US							
R08-003F	2003	LEXUS LS430	AUTO	54477	IVORY	ADU-502	29,999	23,999
ОТН	ER	CARS & TRU	JCK	S				
U07-034T	2000	NISSAN MAXIMA GXE 4DR.	AUTO	68648	WHITE	ACT-812	10,999	6,999
U08-038T	2001	MITS MONTERO WGN	AUTO	93155	BEIGE	CVS-88	7,999	
GM	VAN	N .						
R09-002F	2005	EXPRESS VAN	AUTO	101951	WHITE	BUS-1231	9,999	
U08-092L	2005	EXPRESS VAN	AUTO	78403	WHITE	BUS-1201	10,999	8,999
TOY	OT/	A VAN						
R09-006B	2004	SIENNA VAN	AUTO	75000	WHITE	ABV-999	9,999	
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U07-050T	2002	RAV4 4DR 4WD	AUTO	39182	WHITE	ABW-677	13,699	12,799
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'In layoffs, alien workers first before US citizens'

The Labor Department is vigorously enforcing the U.S. citizen preference in any reductionsin-force, according to Employment Services director Alfred Pangelinan in a statement issued yesterday.

The department's regulations, issued under Section 4937 of Public Law 15-108, provide that every employer must lay off foreign workers first before laying off U.S. citizens in the same O-Net job classification. The regulations also provide that every employer must lay off foreign workers who arrived more recently before laying off foreign workers who have been in the Commonwealth for a longer time.

The only exceptions to this iob preference in lavoffs are provided in Section 4965 of P.L. 15-108 for consular operations and students on work/

study assignments. All other employers are covered by the layoff provisions.

"We have some discretion under our regulations," said Pangelinan. "We can agree with the employer under certain circumstances to vary the job preference in layoffs for important business reasons, but we must be notified and agree in advance. We cannot provide any flexibility after the fact."

If an employer has not yet established O-Net classifications with the department when hiring workers, Pangelinan said the department will apply the broadest applicable O-Net classification for layoff job preference for U.S. citizens.

Pangelinan said the regulations recognize that economic necessity may require layoffs. "We recognize that these are difficult economic times," he said, "and we will work with employers to find a good solution. But we must protect the rights given to U.S. citizen workers by CNMI law."

Employers are required to give the department 60 days advance notice of any layoffs, so the department can ensure that U.S. citizen employment rights are protected and foreign worker transfers are arranged.

An employer who has laid off

foreign workers is barred from hiring any on island foreign workers in the O-Net job classification from which workers were laid off, and is barred for six months from hiring any offisland foreign workers.

An employer who lays off U.S. citizens before laying off foreign workers in the same job classifications is subject to the revocation of foreign worker

employment contracts. (PR) The annual float competition,

LibDay Committee pushes revival of Las Vegas Night

BY MONETH G. DEPOSA

Moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com REPORTER

The Saipan Mayor's Office wants to revive Las Vegas Night during the monthlong Liberation Day celebrations, according to Tony

Benavente, Mayor Juan B. Tudela's public information officer.

The application and necessary documentation for the proposal have already been submitted and are currently being reviewed by the Attorney General's Office, he said.

Last year, booths that promote gambling activities on festival grounds were ordered closed by the government, including the popular Las Vegas Night, due to permitting issues.

Asked for the reason why the committee is now pushing for it, Benavente said it would really raise much funds for the festival and the municipality.

"It might bring significant amount to the committee," Benavente said, adding that a certain percentage of Las Vegas Night is remitted to the committee.

Citing the very tight budget of only \$45,000 for the entire festival, Benavente said the lack of funds may limit some traditional activities like the fireworks display. The mayor, he said, continues to seek an additional \$100,000 from the Legislature.

Path for peace

This year's celebration has the theme "Path for Peace."

Considered the biggest community event on island, the Liberation Day festivity will begin on June 5.

Main events such as the much-awaited parade of the Royal Court and float competition are slated for the Fourth of July celebration.

Benavente said since the committee is still in the preliminary stage, details of other activities are not yet finalized.

He said the committee is now searching for Liberation Day Queen candidates, preferably from various ethic communities and must be 15-20 years old.

Tickets for the candidates are still up for printing, according to Benavente.

meantime, is a sure thing for the Liberation Day committee. "Applications are ready for the float," he said, adding that the deadline for submission is on the first week of May.

30 booth stations

The Saipan Mayor's Office is now soliciting bids from three contractors for the building of 30 booth stations for the festival.

For each food vendor, the committee charges \$1,250, inclusive of alcohol and beer; its \$800 for those that mainly sells food and soda.

In the initial meeting of the festival steering committee, the following persons were elected to various committees: Joaquin Omar as overall festival chairman; Isidoro T. Cabrera as vice chairman; Rose T. Ada as queen's committee chair; Angel Hocog as concessionaire committee chair; Lucy Aldan as vice chair for concessionaire panel; Susanna Ellis as finance and solicitation committee chair; Joaquin Guerrero as communications chair; Felipe Atalig as chair for the parade; and Joe Tenorio as chair of the logistics committee.

Computer courses for beginners

The Northern Marianas College, through the Division of Community Programs and Services' Community Development Institute, is offering shortterm classes to individuals who wish to improve their computer application skills.

These classes, which are designed to improve individual knowledge and specific skills, are geared around actual workforce needs and experiences based on course surveys, community needs assessments, and interviews with employers. The April/May course schedule and fees are listed in the sidebar. For a more detailed description of each course, contact CDI at 234-5498 ext. 1005 or log on to www.nmcnet.edu.

CDI will also be offering its Customer Service and Administrative Training Courses in April running into May. For a schedule of these classes, please log on to www.nmcnet.edu.

All interested individuals should register at least seven days before the first day of class. Certificates of attendance and competence will be awarded to registered students who complete all course requirements. Full payment is required for admission to a class. To register or for information about these classes, visit the CDI Office in Building P on the NMC Campus in As Terlaje

SHORT COURSES

How to Properly Use a Keyboard (Keyboarding) April 20-24, 2009 Schedule: 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. Room: W-4 Fee: \$70 **Understanding Personal Comput-**

> ers (PCs) and How They Work April 27 & 29, 2009 Schedule: 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. Room: W-4 Fee: \$35

E-mail: The Best Way to Communicate

April 27-28, 2009 Schedule: 1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. Room: W-4 Fee: \$25

How to Use Word Processing Applications

May 4-8, 2009 Schedule: 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. Room: W-4 Fee: \$90

How to Use Spreadsheet Applications

May 11-15, 2009 Schedule: 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. Room: W-4 Fee: \$90

Creating Digital Presentations May 18-22, 2009

Schedule: 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. Room: W-4 Fee: \$90

or call Les Ogumoro 234-5498 extension 1010 or e-mail logumoro@nmcnet.edu. (NMC)



Corner Beach Road and Chalan Mnsr. Guerrero in San Jose

Telephone: 234-5911 | Fax: 234-6514 | www.microlsaipan.com

Nearly 4,000 ready to beautify NMI

About 4,000 volunteers are set to hit the streets and beaches of Saipan in what is expected to be the largest islandwide clean

expected to be the largest islandwide cleanup in Micronesian history.

"The support the community is showing us has been tremendous,"

ON THE NET

http://beautifycnmi.blogspot.com

Marianas Tourism Education Council are the co-organizers of the islandwide cleanup. Supplies were donated by MVA and McDonald's. For more information on the how to participate in the cleanup, contact Joe Kaipat at 664-8500 or Angelo Villagomez via e-mail at angelovillagomez@gmail.com. A list of all participants can be found by visiting http://beautifycnmi.blogspot.com. (PR)

DEQ set for today's islandwide cleanup

April is the 26th annual Environmental Awareness Month—an annual event of the Division of Environmental Quality. Aside from its monthly "Cleanup Brigade" at various popular and isolated tourists and community favorite spots in Saipan, DEQ is again spearheading its annual Islandwide Cleanup events.

In the past years, DEQ's islandwide cleanup

was geared to getting government employees' participation. This year, the Environmental Awareness Month Committee's drive was

to get the business and non-profit organizations involved in the islandwide clean up effort. With this goal, David B. Rosario, chairman of the 2009 Environmental Awareness Month Committee contacted and invited Beautify CMNI to partner with DEQ's annual island wide cleanup event on April 17, 2009.

According to Joe Kaipat, who is co-chairing with Beautify CNMI the Islandwide Cleanup, there are over 3,718 volunteers from the

Saipan community—19 from the private sectors/non-profit organizations and 28 from the government agencies. This is largest volunteer cleanup on Saipan. The Municipality of Rota will be having their islandwide cleanup on April 22 and Tinian will be holding theirs next week.

ON THE NET March 31 was the kickoff event with the signing of the Environmental Awareness Month Proclamation by Gov

www.dwq.gov.mp

ness Month Proclamation by Gov.
Benigno R. Fitial, followed by
April 1's Environmental Expo at

the Joeten-Kiyu Library, recycling competitions among elementary schools, school outreach presentations, open house and tour of the DEQ Laboratory, Lagoon cleanup partnering with MVA/NMDOA, two more Environmental Expo at the Kagman Community Center on Tuesday, April 21, and May 1 on Rota.

For more information about the annual environmental events, contact DEQ at 664-8500 or visit www.deq.gov.mp. (*PR*)





said co-organizer Angelo Villagomez of Pew Environment Group. "We have businesses, government agencies, schools, and even families registered to participate."

As of Thursday afternoon, 51 volunteer groups had adopted 48 sites around Saipan. According to Beautify CNMI volunteer Ken Kramer, "The cleanup we organized in 2006 had 32 volunteer groups. This one is nearly double the size."

Deputy Secretary of Labor and Beautify CNMI founder Cinta Kaipat had a reminder for all participants, "Don't forget to take before, during, and after pictures of your cleanups. We will post these on the Beautify CNMI blog and the two groups with the largest number of volunteers and most trash collected will win \$100 each. We'll use the photos submitted to determine the winners."

Division of Environmental Quality, Rotary Club of Saipan, Marianas Visitors Authority, and

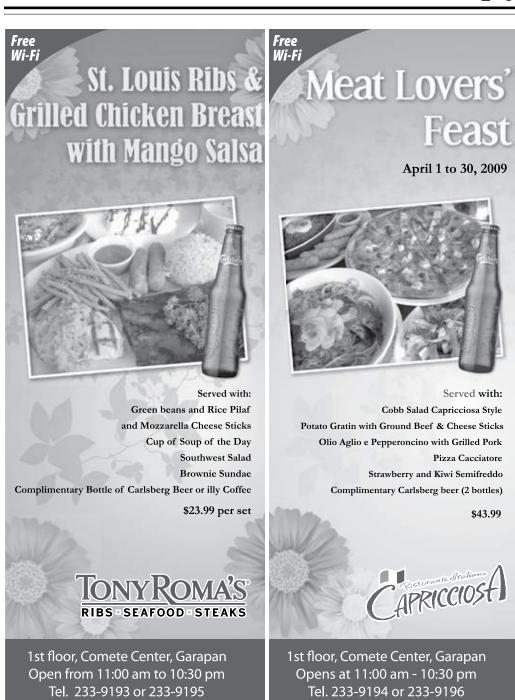


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Realty Management services is a full-service property management company located on the island of Saipan in the U.S. Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. All our properties are equipped with ff. amenities 🙉 Laundry Area 🙉 Free trash collection 🙉 24-hr water and power 🙉 Night-time Security Guard 🙉 On call maintenance staff 🙉 Ample parking space 🙉 Cable ready 🤐 Close to stores and schools 🙉 For more information please call 285-1317 and look for Jeremy 🙀 MIHA applicants are welcome & special rates for NMC Faculty Staff, PSS and Military Personnel.

PMB 521 Box 10000, Saipan, MP 96950-8900 • Tel: 1(670) 235-6527/28 • Fax: (670) 235-6530 • sales@rmssaipan.com • www.rmssaipan.com



Pagan belches black smoke

agement Office has elevated its volcano alert level after receiving reports of increased volca-

nic activity on Pagan Island in the Northern Islands.

In a statement issued yesterday, EMO said it first received a call regarding the volcanic activity from Pagan at 6pm Wednes-

day. EMO consulted with the

ON THE NET

www.cnmiemo.gov.mp

the National Weather Service in Guam, which observed a plume of black and white, possible ash

and gas emitting from the volcano on Pa-

gan. EMO said it contacted a vessel named MV San Antonio that was on Pagan at the time to verify the situation.

"According to the captain, sories. (EMO)

The CNMI Emergency Man- U.S. Geological Services and the plume is about twice the size of Mt. Pagan," said the EMO statement.

The volcano alert level right now is just "advisory" and the color code is "yellow."

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial is urging the public to tune in to local radio broadcasts or local news sources and log in at www.cnmiemo.gov.mp on the Internet for further statements and advi-

MVA reaches 50,000 Marine Dive Fair attendees in Japan

Diving opportunities in the Northern Mariana Islands were touted by the Marianas Visitors Authority to over 50,000 attendees at this month's annual Marine Diving Fair in Japan.

The Marine Diving Fair is that country's leading consumer diving show. This year MVA hosted two information booths at the event, held April 3-5, 2009, at Ikebukuro Sunshine City in Tokyo.

"As Japan is our primary market and diving is one of our biggest attractions on Saipan, Tinian and Rota, the Marine Diving Fair is a perfect opportunity to promote our islands," said MVA managing director Perry Tenorio. "From our many shore dives to the Grotto, voted the world's No. 2 cavern diving

spot by Skin Diver magazine, two complimentary air tickets the diving opportunities are numerous and growing."

In addition to MVA staff, the event was attended by Hitoshi Yamaguichi, vice president of the Northern Marianas Dive Operations Association; Megumi Takaku of dive shop Blue Palms on Rota; and Takeshi Yamauchi of dive shop S2 Club.

In addition to sharing information about the CNMI's diving opportunities, a quiz game was held April 5 with prizes donated by MVA members and Northwest Airlines supplying from Narita to Saipan as the grand prize.

Akiko Endo from Tasi Tours and Transportation attended the award ceremony on behalf of MVA on April 3, where Managaha Island was selected as the Best Snorkeling Spot for the sixth consecutive year.

The fair had 51,825 total registered participants. Saipan, Tinian and Rota hosted just over 33,000 scuba divers last year and are working to significantly increase that number over the next three years. (MVA)

Vendors sought for NMC Charter Day

The Northern Marianas College Charter Day Committee is inviting different agencies, businesses, clubs, and other civic organizations to participate in the upcoming Charter Day celebration.

Organizations may purchase booth space for the following categories: food/drink, specialty drinks (e.g. coffee coolers or pearl shakes), games booths, and retail (arts and crafts, toys, etc).

The Charter Day Celebration will be held on May 8, 2009, at the college's As Terlaje campus from 4pm to 11pm. The event is one of NMC's largest and mostattended events.

This year, the celebration will showcase a broad range of entertainment, including a variety of live band performances, cultural dance presentations, and the highly anticipated Marianas Idol, Battle of the Bands, CNMI's Best Dance Crew, and Miss Pugua Beauty Contest Competitions.

Companies may reserve booth space by paying the \$100 onetime fee, which covers the tent, booth, and access to 110w electricity outlets. The Booth Registration form may be obtained at the Office of Student Activities & Leadership located in Building J or online at www.nmcnet.edu.

For more information, contact Perry Inos at 234-5498 ext. 1253 or email perryi@nmcnet. edu. *(PR)*

US Navy to evaluate anchorages in Palau

SANTA RITA. Guam—USNS 1st Lt. Jack Lummus arrived in the Republic of Palau April 16.

Embarked on the ship is Maritime Prepositioning Ships Squadron 3, which is an operational asset of the U.S. Navy Seventh Fleet.

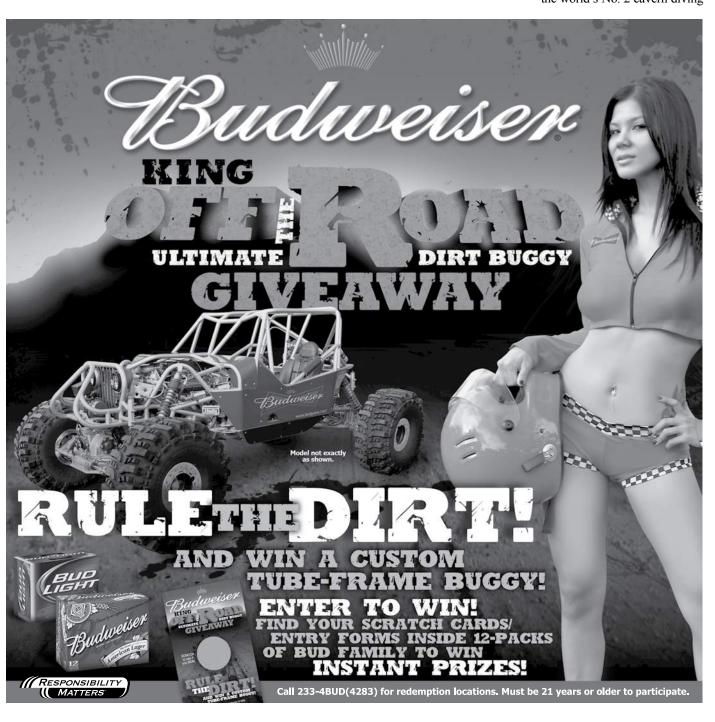
The primary objective of the port call is to evaluate the shortterm suitability of offshore anchorages for use by large preposition ships. During the visit, military staff members and the ship's civilian mariners will also conduct various community relations projects:

April 17, 20-22 and 27: Personnel will visit local schools to speak during Earth Week school mini-fairs in the state of Airai and Koror. Sailors will also talk about their life on board a ship and what ships do to help protect the environment.

April 18: Personnel will participate in a state cleanup with the Koror State Sanitation and Youth Divisions.

As part of the Navy's strategic sealift capability, MPSRON 3 is responsible for the Military Sealift Command Prepositioning Program in the Western Pacific Ocean. Its 10 assigned ships carry afloat prepositioned cargo for U.S. military forces. MPSRON 3 ships move from port to port in many allied nations in the Pacific Rim throughout the year. On 24-hours notice, every MPSRON 3 ship can leave port and sail anywhere in the world and deliver combat support and equipment that the Army and Marines need to accomplish their missions.

Lummus is one of Military Sealift Command's 15 large container and roll-on/roll-off ships and is part of the 32 ships in the Prepositioning Program. The ship is operated by approximately 30 U.S. government contractor merchant mariners. (USN)



COMMUNITY BRIEFS

OPA to visit Rota, Tinian Staff of the Office of the Public Auditor will be on Rota on Thursday, April 23, 2009, and on Tinian on Friday, April 24, 2009, to notarize and accept last-minute filings of financial disclosure statements from government officials. Filers on Rota may visit the Rota Mayor's Office from 11am to 3:30pm on April 23. Filers on Tinian may visit the Tinian Casino Gaming Control Commission conference room from 9am to 4:30pm on April 24. All filers are reminded to bring with them some form of photo identification, such as a driver's license or a passport. Failure to do so may result in the denial of notary services. For any inquiries or comments, contact OPA at 322-6481 or 6482. **(PR)**

NMC 2009 graduation candidates meeting set

Spring 2009 graduation candidates of the Northern Marianas College are invited to attend the Graduation Committee Meeting scheduled for April 18, 2009, Saturday, at the Student Support Services office located in Building J on the NMC campus at 2pm.

The meeting will feature updates on the 2009 Graduation commencement exercises. For more information, contact Jack Kiyoshi Jr. at 234-5498 Ext. 1021or e-mail jackk@nmcnet. edu. All students preparing to graduate in May 2009 are strongly encouraged to attend this meeting. (NMC)

John Gonzales Live's April schedule

April 22, 2009 LIVE – Replays 4/26 and 4/27 @ 7-8 pm

- Public awareness on living with autism
- Parents and service provid-

April 29, 2009 LIVE - Replays 5/3 and 5/4@, 7-8 pm

- Current Issues with Family Court
- Kenneth L. Govendo, Associate Judge, CNMI Superior Court

Shows Air on KSPN Channel 2. LIVE Text-in: 285-META; LIVE Call-in: 287-4230; Email: johngonzales@ pticom.com.

Chacha Oceanview celebrates Health Week

The Chacha Oceanview Junior High School will have a Sports Expo and parents' softball game today as part of its annual Health and Wellness Week. We are inviting athletes from various sports to interact with students and give students pointers on staying physically fit. We are also inviting parents that wish to play softball on this day after school with COJHS staff. Contact Joe San Nicolas at 237-3921 if you wish to participate. We would like to invite you as our parents to take time to participate in any of the activities. (PR)

Marianas High School schedule

- April 27-May 1 SAT10 test (grade 9 and 11)
- May 4-15 Advanced Placement Exams
- May 18-22 PSS SBA Tests
- May 25 No classes (Memorial Day)
- June 11 Graduation Cer-
- June 15 End of 4th Quarter For questions and concerns, contact 237-3206. (PR)

PAWS sets public meeting

PAWS is having a no-host meeting at Coffee Care on April 30. The meeting is open to the public. All those interested in volunteering for PAWS and saving the non-profit organization are encouraged to attend the meeting. RSVP to Bobbi Grizzard no later than April 29 at bgrizzard@saipan.com or call 483-9464. Alternatively, you may contact 285-PAWS. (PR)

Kagman High PTSA meeting set

Attention parents and guardians of Kagman High School students: There will be a PTSA meeting on Thursday, April 21, from 6pm to 7pm, at the Kagman High School cafeteria. The meeting will also be held via video teleconferencing for all parents, guardians, staff and students from the northern side of the island. Parents from Marpi, As Matuis, San Roque, Tanapag, and Sadog Tasi can go to Tanapag Elementary School to attend the meeting. For more information, call us at 237-3840 or 237-3832, or fax 664-3788. (PR)

Student applicants ought for Korean trip

from students between the age Taxation wishes to remind all

of 9 to 12 who are interested to participate in the upcoming JCI Student Exchange Program to be held in Seoul, Korea, from May 11 to 16, 2009. Anyone interested may come to the Saipan Mayor's Office and pick up an application form, Monday to Friday, from 7:30am to 11:30am and from 12:30pm to 4pm. For more information, call Jemalyn Tenorio at 234-6208 or 6280. (PR)

Financial aid for power bill payments

Saipan Mayor Juan Borja Tudela announced yesterday the availability of funds under the Mayor's Utility Assistance Program to help qualified residents pay for one month of their power bill. This is a federally funded program available to residents of the Municipality of Saipan who are unable to pay for their power bill to the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. All residents whose power bill is under their name are eligible to apply. Application forms can be picked up at the Saipan Mayor's Office in Afetnas Square in San Antonio during regular working hours, Monday to Friday, between 7:30am to 11am and 12:30pm to 4pm. For more information, call Carmen C. Maratita or Katherine P. Terry at 234-6280 or 6208. (PR)

KagES April calendar of events

- April 17 Early dismissal for all students at noon
- April 17 Quarter Report Cards distribution at 1:30pm-4:30pm
- April 27-May 1 SAT 10 Assessment for 3rd and 5th grade students

Quarterly tax return deadline

Applications are being accepted The Division of Revenue and

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

Main Office: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT P.O. BOX 501055 • SAIPAN • MP 96950-1055 Phone: (670) 237-6500 Fax: (670) 234-5962 E-Mail Address: cpa.admin@pticom.com • Website: www.cpa.gov.mp

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

For Construction of a Ports Police Guard House located at the West Access Gate of the Saipan International Airport Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands Project No. CPA-SA-008-09

The Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) is soliciting sealed proposals from construction firms/companies for the construction of a Police Guard House at the west access gate of the Saipan International Airport, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The detailed scope of work will be available at the Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Ports Authority, Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, 2nd Floor of the Arrival Building on Wednesday, April 15, 2009. All responses to this RFP shall also take into account any and all taxes that will be charged to the proposer awarded the contract for the project, including excise tax and the associated costs for security access to the airport's sterile area.

Inquiries regarding this Request for Proposals may be delivered to the Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Ports Authority, at the Saipan International Airport, faxed to (670) 234-5962 or emailed to cpa.admin@

All proposals are to be submitted in a sealed envelope marked with the respective RFP description to the office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Ports Authority, 2nd floor of the Arrival Building, Francisco C, Ada/Saipan Internationa Airport, no later than 4:30 p.m., Friday, May 8, 2009.

The Commonwealth Ports Authority reserves the right to reject any or all proposals for any reason and to waive any defects in the proposals if determined by the Ports Authority to be in its best interest. All proposals shall become the property of the Commonwealth Ports Authority

/s/ EFRAIN F. CAMACHO, P.E. Executive Director/Contracting Officer

Date: April 14, 2009

CNMI residents that the 2009 1st Quarter deadline for filing the quarterly tax returns is Thursday, April 30, 2009. The Division of Revenue and Taxation will be open from 7:30am to 4:30pm on Thursday, April 30, 2009. The office of the Division of Revenue and Taxation is located at the Joeten Dandan Commercial Center. For more information, call 664-1000, 664-1043 Compliance Branch, or 664-1066 Collection Branch. (PR)

SVES registration schedule

San Vicente Elementary School Registration for School Year 2009-2010 is scheduled to begin on April 27, 2009 from 9am-12pm, and 1-4pm in the school registrar's office.

- Kindergarten- April 27-May 01, 2009
- First through Third Grade-

May 4-8, 2009

■ Fourth through Six Grade-May 11-15, 2009

Registration requirements: Birth certificate or passport, health certificate, health/ accidental insurance, map of residential location, power of attorney/ legal guardianship (if applicable), copy of report card, unofficial transcript with the address and phone number of the last school attended. (PR)

Sr. Remedios registration ongoing

Registration is now ongoing at the Sister Remedios Early Childhood Development Center for School Year 2009-2010. For more information, call 234-6247. (PR)

Attention to MHS 9th grader

A reminder to all Marianas High School incoming freshmen (9th grader): Make sure to contact 237-3206. (PR)

verify with the MHS Registrar (237-3205) that you are registered for classes for school year 2008-2009. You have to provide a new blue health card to MHS for new school year. Deadline for submission of new blue health card from Department of Public Health is Tuesday, Sept. 2. For questions and concerns, contact 237-3206. (PR)

Marianas High School schedule

- April 27- May 1 SAT10 Tests (Grade 9-11)
- May 4-15 Advanced Placement Exams
 - May 18-22 PSS SBA Tests
- May 25 No classes (Memorial Day)
- June 11 Graduation Ceremony
- June 15 End of 4th Quarter For questions and concerns,



Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands Office of the Secretary of Public Works

2nd Floor Joeten Commercial Building, Gualo Rai Saipan, MP 96950



SPECIAL PUBLIC NOTICE

Governor Benigno R. Fitial and Lt. Governor Timothy P. Villagomez, through the Department of Public Works (DPW), would like to notify the general public that the Territorial Transportation Improvement Plan (TTIP) for Fiscal Years 2009 through 2011 would be available for public comment beginning March 24, 2009.

The Federal-Aid Highway Program is a formula grant program that the CNMI Government receives annually from the U.S. Department of Transportation (USDOT), Federal Highway Administration (FHW A).

Copies of the TTIP can be obtained from the Department of Public Works - Technical Services Division (TSD) at Suite 212, Joeten Oleai Center, Saipan. For those residing in Tinian and Rota copies may be obtained from the local Public Works Offices.

Questions and comments regarding the TTIP must be submitted in writing no later than 4:00 p.m. on April 21, 2009 to Mr. Joseph M. Inos, Jr., Director of Technical Services Division, DPW Technical Services Division, Suite 212, Joeten Oleai Center, or fax to (670) 235-6346.

ARONGOL TOULAP

Sóumwar ye Benigno R. Fitial, Sów Lemelem me Timothy P. Villagomez, Sów Máng sángi Bwulasiyool Public Works (DPW) re kke arongaar aramas toulap bwe Territorial Transportation Improvement Plan (TTIP) reel rágh kka 2009 mwet ngáli 2011nge ebwe lo bwe toulap rebwe isisilong yaar mangemang, ebwe bwél wóól Mailap (Mótso) 24,2009.

Progróóma ye Highway Federal-Aid nge formula grant program iye gobenool CNMI e ghal bwughi alongal ráágh mereel US Department of Transportation (USDOT) Federal Highway Administation (FHWA).

Tilighiyal TTIP nge emmwel ebwe bweibwogh mereel Bwulasiyool Public W orks Technical Services Division (TSD) me Suite 212, Joeten Oleai Center, Seipél. Schóól Tchúlúyól me Luuta ebwe bweibwogh mereel bwulasiyool Public Works me lye.

Mángemáng me ayegh reel TTIP nge ebwe isisilong mmwal 4:00 lefááf wóól Séétá (Abriid) 21,2009, ngáli Joseph M. Inos, Jr., Samwoolul Technical Services Division DPW. Suite 212 Joeten Oleai Center me ngáre fax ngáli (670) 235-6346.

ESPESIÅT NA NOTISIAN PUPBLIKU

I Gobietno as Benigno R. Fitial yan i Segundo Gobietno as Timothy P. Villagomez, ginen Dipattamenton Cho'cho' Pupbliku(DPW), malago' na para u notisia i pupbliku henerăt na i Territorial Transportation Improvement Plan(TTIP) para i Fisikåt na Såkkan 2009 asta 2011 para u guaha opiñion pupbliku tinituhon gi Måtso 24, 2009.

I Federal-Aid Highway Program i formula grant na programa na i Gobietnamenton CNMI ha risisibi kada såkkan ginen i U. S. Dipattamenton Transpottasion (USDOT), Atministrasion Federal Highway(FHWA).

Kopia siha pot i TTIP siña ha mahenta ginen i Dipattamenton Cho' cho' Pupbliku-Dibision Setbision Teknikåt (TSD) gi Suite 212, gi Joeten Oleai Center, Saipan. Para todu ayu siha i mañasaga Tinian yan Luta kopia siha siña mahenta ginen i Ofisinan Cho' cho' Pupbliku siha.

Kuestion yan opiñon siha pot i TTIP debi na u mana'hålom i opion tinige' åntes di alas kuåtro(4:00)gi despues di talo'ani. gi Abrit 21,2009 guatu gi as Siñot Joseph M. Inos, Jr., Direktot i Dibision Setbion Teknikat, DPW Dibision Setbision Teknikat siha, Suite 212, Joeten Oleai Center, pat fax guatu gi (670)235-6346.

/s/ DIEGO B.SONGSONG Secretary of Public Works

18 FRIDAY, APRIL 17, 2009 SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Island Snapshots

MAKING CARDS

Students at the Northern Marianas College take time off from their regular academic classes to explore their creative sides at Wednesday's Creative Card Making workshop sponsored by the Student Support Services, a program under the federally-sponsored educational outreach program TRiO. SSS also conducted a "How to Create a Professional Portfolio" workshop in the afternoon. These workshops were conducted as part of an effort to enhance the learning ability of the students by engaging them in hands-on

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

ROTARY GUEST

CNMI Immigration director Melvin Grey, right, briefs the members and guests of the Rotary Club of Saipan at the Hyatt Regency in Garapan Tuesday noon about immigration procedures once federalization takes effect Nov. 28. Looking on is Rotary Club president Ben Babauta, left.



GRASS FIRE

A grass fire breaks out on Middle Road, in front of the IT&E offices in Chalan LauLau late last week. Fire personnel managed to control the blaze



RETIREES' MEETING

Over a hundred retirees attend a meeting organized by the Commonwealth Association of Retired Persons at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe on Monday night.





NMC WORKSHOP

The Northern Marianas College recently hosted a "Resume Building" workshop, which is the first in a series of free workshops designed to aid students in career development. Jack Kiyoshi Jr., far left, of the NMC human resources department explains to students the "dos and don'ts" of creating a job resume. Other upcoming Career Development workshops are titled "Self-Employment" and "Interviewing Techniques and Etiquette" and will be facilitated by various experts.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



DISASTER DRILL

Firefighters from the Aircraft Rescue and Firefighting unit at the Saipan International Airport douse the flames with water during Wednesday's disaster drill that featured a hypothetical plane crashing due to a bird

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



RED CROSS WALKATHON

American Red Cross NMI Chapter volunteers and staff pose with a participant for a souvenir picture before the start of this year's Red Cross Walkathon, held March 28, 2009. The event attracted over 3,000 participants.



BEATING THE DEADLINE

Residents try to beat Wednesday's deadline for filing the 2008 individual income tax return at the Division of Revenue and Taxation in Dandan.

BIRTHDAY GIRL

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Verlyn S. Agoun celebrates her birthday on April 11, 2009, with the people closest to her heart: Ray, Trevor and Jared. сомтявитер рното









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20 FRIDAY, APRIL 17, 2009 SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Business

Fed survey finds faint signs of hope

Federal Reserve said Wednesday there are some faint signs the steep plunge in economic

Regional outlook on economy

The Federal Reserve Board separates the nation into 12 regions and eight times a year releases the Beige Book, an

Several regions "saw signs that activity in some sectors was stabilizing at a low level ... (but)

> overall economic activity contracted further or remained weak," the

The survey, known as the Beige Book. struck a slightly more positive tone than last month's report, which described an economy plunging rapidly after the financial shocks that occurred last fall.

Both President Barack Obama and Federal Reserve Chairman Ben Bernanke on Tuesday mentioned some recent signs of progress while cautioning that the reces-

sion was far from over. Information in the new Fed

The Fed's latest survey of busisurvey underscored that view. ness conditions nationwide found The report listed a host of probfive of its 12 regional banks relems in the manufacturing, home porting a moderation in the pace building, and travel and tourism

Hints of stabilizing economy spark late rally

Street is seeing an economic glass that's half-full—again.

Investors poured money into consumer product and financial companies Wednesday as they saw new signals that the recession could be easing its chokehold on the economy.

Stocks jumped in the last hour of trading after the Federal Reserve released a report showing glimmers of hope in U.S. business conditions. The market had drifted for much of the day on poor readings on

sectors, but noted some faint signals that the steep fall in activity was starting to moderate.

In one sign of a possible rebound, the report said while home prices and new home construction declined in most parts of the country, the number of people shopping for homes was beginning to rise, leading to a scattered pickup in sales in a sumer prices. The Dow Jones industrial average ended with a gain of 109 points.

The late-day turnaround was typical of a market that has looked for reasons to push higher on hopes for a recovery ever since stocks skidded to 12-year lows in early March. A powerful five-week rally since then has pushed the market up more than 20 percent.

Technology stocks lagged after Intel Corp.'s tightlipped forecast caused jitters about a

number of districts.

The Fed also said several districts observed a slowdown in the pace of manufacturing declines. The Cleveland, New York and Dallas regions reported a leveling off in the pace of declines in new orders.

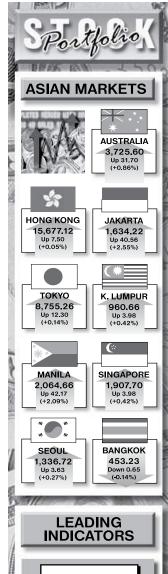
The nation's job market, though, is not improving. "Labor market conditions were

NEW YORK (AP)—Wall industrial production and con- corner of the market that had drawn buyers over the past month, but the tech-focused Nasdag composite index managed a slender advance.

Money flowed into stocks like Procter & Gamble Co., which boosted its dividend, and American Express Co., which said credit card defaults might be stabilizing. Stocks in hard-hit parts of the market like airlines and home builders bounded higher as investors bet the economy might be finding its footing.

weak and reports of layoffs, reductions in work hours, temporary factory shutdowns, branch closures and hiring freezes remained widespread across districts," the report said.

The Fed found a silver lining in that as well, noting that the job losses have eased worries about inflation being generated by rising wage pressures.



8,057.81 -25.57

S&P 858.73 +2.17

NASDAQ 1,653.31

MONEY MARKET Australian Dollar 1.3817

British Pound 0.6686 Canadian Dollar 1.2068 Chinese Yuan 6.8324 0.7589 49.5150 Indian Rupee Indonesian Rupiah 10,775.0000 98.7600 Japanese Yen Malaysian Ringgit 3.5930 **New Zealand Dollar** 1.7394 47.7150 Philippine Peso Singapore Dollar 1.4982 South Korean Won 1,324.8000 **Swiss Franc** 1.1447 Taiwan Dollar 33.7710 Thailand Baht 35.3800

In U.S. dollar terms

Source: Associated Press

US foreclosures up 24 percent in Q1

WASHINGTON (AP)—The But it remains to be seen whethnumber of American households threatened with losing their homes grew 24 percent in the first three months of this year and is poised to rise further as major lenders restart foreclosures after a temporary break, according to data released Thursday.

activity that began last fall is

starting to level off.

The big unknown for the coming months, however, is President Barack Obama's plan to help up to 9 million borrowers avoid foreclosure through refinanced mortgages or modified loans. The Obama administration expects its plans to make a big dent in the foreclosure crisis.

er the lending industry will fully embrace it, despite \$75 billion in incentive payments.

The faltering economy is causing the housing crisis to spread. Nationwide, nearly 804,000 homes received at least one foreclosure-related notice from January through March, up from about 650,000 in the same time period a year earlier, according to RealtyTrac Inc., a foreclosure listing firm.

In March, more than 340,000 properties were affected, up 17 percent from February and 46 percent from a year earlier.



Visitors inspect Proton's new model "Exora" on display in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, Wednesday, April 15, 2009,

BUSINESS BRIEFS Oil rises to near \$50 on

2nd-half recovery hopes

SINGAPORE (AP)—Oil prices crept to near \$50 a barrel Thursday in Asia as investors brushed off poor economic news from the U.S. and eyed a possible second-half recovery in crude demand. Benchmark crude for May delivery rose 45 cents to \$49.70 a barrel by midday in Singapore in electronic trading on the New York Mercantile Exchange. The contract on Wednesday dropped 16 cents to settle at \$49.25. Oil prices have clung near \$50 this month as traders parse recent economic data for signs global crude demand could recover soon. Investors are brushing off the current dismal signals that demand remains weak, instead eyeing a possible rebound in the second half.

Ebay to buy stake in S. Korean online marketplace

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—EBay Inc. said Thursday it plans to pay as much as \$1.2 billion to purchase a majority stake in South Korea's top online marketplace in a bid to expand its presence in Asia. San Jose, Calif.-based eBay and Gmarket Inc. said that eBay will make a cash tender offer of \$24 a share to purchase all outstanding common shares and American Depository shares in the South Korean company. If successful, eBay said it would take a stake of at least 67 percent in Gmarket. "Asia is a very fast moving market, fast growing market," John Pluhowski, an eBay vice president said in Seoul. The acquisition "also allows us to build a platform for growth in Korea but also in regions throughout Asia and beyond." Pluhowski said the acquisition is "one of the largest since the company has been acquiring companies throughout the decade.'

Malaysia's Proton launches multipurpose vehicle

KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia improved features, he said.

(AP)—Malaysian national automaker Proton launched its first seven-seater multipurpose vehicle Wednesday, pinning hopes on the long-awaited model to spur sales and boost exports amid a global economic slump.

The new Exora model marks a turning point in Proton's product range, which previously focused only on passenger cars, and could be used as a platform to develop other high-end commercial variants, said Managing Director Syed Zainal Abidin.

Proton believes there will be 'overwhelming response" for the 1.6 liter-engine vehicle due to its competitive pricing below 76,000 ringgit (\$21,000)—the cheapest in the market—and

2,500 bookings ahead of its official launch, he said.

"Despite the current (economic) situation, we believe there will be good spinoffs ... it will help to stimulate a lot of interest not only for the company but for the whole industry," he told The Associated Press at a recent media preview.

Syed Zainal said the Exora will make its debut in Indonesia in July and in Thailand by the year-end, before being exported to the Middle East next year.

"This is a starting point about the way we want to go forward," he said.

'We set our sight very clear that the domestic (market) can-

not be our champion. Every car The automaker has received that we produce must cater for exports ... our survival goes beyond the shores of Malaysia."

State-owned Proton, which returned to the black in the fiscal year ended March 2008, is hoping the Exora will help to sustain its profitability as the economic downturn hits demand globally.

Proton's exports remain minimal and sales are largely derived in Malaysia, Southeast Asia's biggest passenger car market. New vehicle sales in the domestic market fell 4.8 percent in February from a year earlier, the fifth straight month of decline.

Syed Zainal said it took 18 months to develop the Exora at a cost of 480 million ringgit (\$133 million).

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Nation

Tens of thousands rally at tax day 'tea parties'

ATLANTA (AP)—Whipped up by conservative commentators and bloggers, tens of thousands of protesters staged "tea parties" around the country Wednesday to tap into the collective angst stirred up by a bad economy, government spending and bailouts.

The rallies were directed at President Barack Obama's new administration on a symbolic day: the deadline to file income taxes. Protesters even threw what appeared to be a box of tea bags toward the White House, causing a brief lockdown at the compound.

Shouts rang out from Kentucky, which just passed tax increases on cigarettes and alcohol. to Salt Lake City, where many in the crowd booed Republican Gov. Jon Huntsman for accepting about \$1.5 billion in stimulus money. Even in Alaska, where there is no statewide income tax or sales tax, hundreds of people held signs and chanted "No more spending."

"Frankly, I'm mad as hell," said businessman Doug Burnett at a rally at the Iowa Capitol, where many of the about 1,000 people wore red shirts declaring "revolution is brewing." Burnett added: "This country has been on a spending spree for decades, a spending spree we can't afford.'

In Boston, a few hundred protesters gathered on the Boston Common—a short distance from the original Tea Party—some dressed in Revolutionary garb and carrying signs that said "Barney Frank, Bernie Madoff: And the Difference Is?" and "D.C.: District of Communism."

Texas Gov. Rick Perry fired up a tea party at Austin City Hall with his stance against the federal government, as some in his U.S. flag-waving audience shouted, "Secede!"

But unlike many events around the country, politicians were not allowed to speak at a separate rally in San Antonio.

"They are welcome to come and listen to us, for a change," organizers said in a statement.

In Atlanta, thousands of people gathered outside the Capitol, where Fox News Channel conservative pundit Sean



Katie Mauldin, 52, traveled from Truth or Consequences, N.M., to gather with hundreds of others Wednesday, April 15, 2009, in front of Thomas Branigan Memorial Library in Las Cruces, N.M., for the Las Cruces Tax Day TEA-Taxed Enough Already-Party.

Hannity broadcast his show tester's sign read: "Hey Obama Wednesday night. One pro- you can keep the change."

One of his guests was Samuel "Joe the Plumber" Wurzelbacher, who made news during the presidential campaign when he asked Barack Obama about taxes. The crowd cheered many of Hannity's stances against higher taxes and moves by the Obama administration so far.

Julie Reeves, of Covington, brought her Chihuahua, Arnie, who wore a tiny anti-IRS Tshirt. "I want the government to get its hand the hell out of my wallet," Reeves said.

The tea parties were promoted by FreedomWorks, a conservative nonprofit advocacy group based in Washington and led by former Republican House Majority Leader Dick Armey of Texas, who is now a lobbyist.

Organizers said the movement developed organically through online social networking sites such as Facebook and Twitter and through exposure on Fox News.

While FreedomWorks insisted the rallies were nonpartisan, they have been seized on by many prominent Republicans who view them as a promising way for the party to reclaim its momentum.

Obamas report \$2.7 million in income for '08

WASHINGTON (AP)— President Barack Obama and his wife, Michelle, millionaires from his best-selling books, made \$2.7 million last year and paid just under onethird of their adjusted income in federal taxes. While the income, mostly his, was far more than the U.S. median household income of about \$50,000, it was quite a decrease from the \$4.2 million the Obamas made in 2007.

Both years, nearly all of the earnings came from Obama's best-selling books. "Dreams from My Father" and "The Audacity of Hope"—brought in about \$2.5 million in royalties last year, according to copies of the returns released by the White House on Wednesday, the federal filing deadline.

Obama earned \$139,204

as a Democratic senator from Illinois last year before leaving his seat after winning the November election. Michelle Obama received a salary of \$62,709 from the University of Chicago Hospitals, where

The couple's total federal tax came to \$855,323. That was 32 percent of their adjusted gross income of \$2,656,902.

The Obamas overpaid by \$26,014, and elected to apply that amount to their 2009 taxes.

The couple's federal tax deductions included about \$50,000 in home mortgage interest.

They reported contributing \$172,050 to charity last year, including \$25,000 each to the CARE international relief agency and the United Negro College Fund. That \$172,050 represented about 6.5 percent of the family's adjusted gross income. That is higher than the national average of roughly 4 percent among Americans who give to charity, according to U.S. government figures.

Republicans score report on right-wing groups

WASHINGTON (AP)—Republicans on Wednesday said a Homeland Security Department intelligence assessment unfairly characterizes military veterans as right-wing extremists. House Republican leader John Boehner described the report as offensive and called on the agency to apologize to veterans.

The agency's intelligence assessment, sent to law enforcement officials last week, warns that right-wing extremists could use the bad state of the U.S.

economy and the election of the country's first black president to recruit members.

The assessment also said that returning military veterans who have difficulties assimilating back into their home communities could be susceptible to extremist recruiters or might engage in lone acts of violence.

"To characterize men and women returning home after defending our country as potential terrorists is offensive and unacceptable," said Boehner, R-Ohio.

American sailors who thwarted pirates return to US ANDREWS AIR FORCE **BASE**, Md. (AP)—The saga of the American merchant seamen who clashed with Somali pirates on the high seas off Africa she was an executive. ended early Thursday with a big "welcome home" banner and

the warm embrace of families. A charter flight from Kenya brought the crew of the Maersk Alabama to Andrews Air Force Base, where they had a private reunion with their loved ones.

Missing was the *Alabama*'s skipper, who was still aboard the U.S. Navy destroyer that had saved him and which still was chasing pirates off the east coast of Africa.

The crewmen were greeted at Andrews about 1 a.m. EDT by several dozen family members who crowded onto the wet tarmac near the arriving plane, waving small flags in the unseasonably cool air. A bevy of reporters and cameras captured the scene, which included a banner adorned with yellow ribbons reading "Welcome Home Maersk Alabama" that shipping company employees erected near the runway.

The crowd erupted in cheers and whistles and applause as the crewman, carrying bags and belongings, climbed down a ramp from the plane to hugs and kisses from family members.

One crewman, carrying a child toward the terminal, shouted, "I'm happy to see my family."

Another exclaimed: "God bless America.'

but calls for "a full investiga-

The crewmen did not stop to talk with reporters and quickly entered the terminal with their families, where a reception area was set aside for their privacy.

The crew was expected to be bused to the Gaylord National Resort and Convention Center about 10 miles away, where they were to spend the night.

Before the crew left Kenya, third mate Colin Wright said he looked forward to hugging his mother when he touched down and advised everyone to embrace theirs.

"Everybody out there give your mother a hug," he said. "Yeah, don't wait. Life is precious. And what a beautiful world."

One week ago, pirates took over the Alabama briefly before Capt. Richard Phillips surrendered himself in exchange for the safety of his 19-member crew. Phillips was freed Sunday after five days of being held hostage in a lifeboat when U.S. Navy SEAL snipers on the destroyer USS Bainbridge killed three of his captors.

The Alabama crew had scuffled with the pirates, wounding one of them with an ice pick, in taking back control of their ship. The bandits fled the ship with Phillips as their captive, holding him in the lifeboat in a highstakes standoff until the SEAL sharpshooters took action.

The Bainbridge was diverted Tuesday to chase pirates attacking a second U.S. cargo ship, thereby delaying Phillips' homecoming.

ACROSS THE NATION

NY boy, 9, made plastic parachute. took death dive

NEW YORK (AP)—A friend says a 9-year-old New York City boy might have been imitating a video game character when he apparently made a plastic parachute and jumped to his death from his apartment building's roof. Police say Domori Miles likely cobbled a plastic bag and rope together before flying off the 13-story Brooklyn building Tuesday. The items were found on the ground near his body. Ten-year-old friend Shakar Murrel says Domori was a fan of the wrestling game "WWE SmackDown vs. Raw" and loved wrestler Jeff Hardy's swan dives. Stamford, Conn.based World Wrestling Entertainment expresses sympathy

buildings or use parachutes.

Dam threatened, residents evacuate small ND town

KATHRYN, N.D. (AP)—Residents of this tiny community cleared out Wednesday as water spilled over a nearby dam and began eroding it, while officials in the larger town of Valley City to the north urged thousands of people to evacuate from their homes because of a flooding threat that could persist for weeks. National Guard soldiers in helicopters were dropping one-ton sandbags to help shore up the Clausen Springs Dam a few miles from Kathryn, a

town of about 55 residents that tion ... before conclusions are could become inundated if the made." It says no "SmackDown dam breaks. "That's slowing rest warrant accusing Demjanvs. Raw" characters jump off it (water) down, and they're juk (pronounced dem-YAHN'going to try and channel it in a way that keeps it away from Kathryn," Gov. John Hoeven said. Residents fled to relatives' homes or a Red Cross shelter after officials went door to door Wednesday morning telling them to get out.

Son: Demjanjuk in pain after federal custody

CLEVELAND (AP)—John Demjanjuk was exhausted and in pain after an aborted attempt by immigration enforcement officers to deport him to Germany, and a court should consider whether the 89-yearold man would even survive an overseas flight, his son said Wednesday. Germany has an aryuk) of being a guard at a Nazi death camp during World War II. On Tuesday, six U.S. immigration officers carried him in a wheelchair from his ranch home in suburban Seven Hills to send him to Germany. Within hours, the retired autoworker won a reprieve from an appeals court and another chance to argue that deportation would amount to torture. Asked how his father was feeling when he arrived back home, Demjanjuk Jr. said: "Exhausted and in a lot of pain in his spine. They actually dropped him in his bedroom when they were trying to get him into the wheelchair. I'm telling you, this was torture."

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Asia

Afghan women attacked for protesting marriage law

KABUL (AP)—Dozens of young women braved crowds of bearded men screaming "dogs!" on Wednesday to protest an Afghan law that lets husbands demand sex from their wives. Some of the men picked up small stones and pelted the women. "Slaves of the Christians!" chanted the 800 or so counter-demonstrators, a mix of men and women. A line of female police officers locked hands to keep the groups apart.

The warring protests highlight the explosive nature of the women's rights debate in Afghanistan. Both sides are girding for battle over the legislation, which has sparked an international uproar since being quietly signed into law last month.

The law says a husband can demand sex with his wife every four days, unless she is ill or would be harmed by intercourse. It also regulates when and for what reasons a wife may leave her home without a male escort.

Though the law would apply only to the country's Shiites, who make up less than 20 percent of Afghanistan's 30 million people, many fear its passage marks a return to Taliban-style oppression of women. The Taliban, who ruled Afghanistan from 1996-2001, required women to wear all-covering burqas and banned them from leaving home unless accompanied by a male relative.

Governments and rights groups around the world have condemned the legislation, and President Barack Obama has labeled it "abhorrent." Afghan President Hamid Karzai has remanded the law to the Justice Department for review and put enforcement on hold.

A host of Afghan intellectuals, politicians and even a number of Cabinet ministers have come out against the law. But those who decry the legislation face quick criticism from conservative Muslim clerics and their followers, as



A Shiite counter protester takes part in a demonstration by some 1,000 male and female Afghans in Kabul, Afghanistan, on Wednesday, April 15, 2009.

Wednesday's protests showed.

"You are a dog! You are not a Shiite woman!" one man shouted to a young woman in a head scarf.

The woman, who held a banner reading "We don't want Taliban law," replied quietly: "This is my land and my people."

The demonstrators chose a risky spot to hold their protest—in front of the mosque of the legislation's main backer—and were easily outnumbered by supporters of the law. They said many women had been stopped on their way to the protest. In the end, more women demonstrated in favor of the law than against it: A few hundred Shiite women marched with banners to join the angry

men. They blamed foreigners for inciting the protests. "We don't want foreigners interfering in our lives. They are the enemy of Afghanistan," said 24-year-old Mariam Sajadi.

Sajadi is engaged to be married, and said she plans to ask her husband's permission to leave the house as put forth in the law. She said other articles—such as the one allowing husbands to demand sex—have been misinterpreted by Westerners prejudiced against Islam. She did not elaborate.

On the other side of the shouting, Mehri Rezai, 32, urged her countrymen to reject the law.

"This law treats women as if we were sheep," she said.

Both sides say they're defending their constitutional rights—but Afghanistan's constitution is unclear. It defers to Islamic law as the highest authority, but also guarantees equal rights for women.

Abbas Noyan, a Shiite lawmaker who opposes the law, said he is hopeful it will be changed. But others are less sure, and even the country's minister of women's affairs, who is female, has declined to comment on the law.

New York-based Human Rights Watch maintains that the judicial review ordered by Karzai is unlikely to be truly independent because those leading the process come from a conservative Shiite background.

ASIAN BRIEFS

China reports 7 new deaths from child virus

BEIJING (AP)—Seven more children have died in an especially virulent outbreak of hand, foot and mouth disease in central China, bringing this year's death toll from the virus to 57, state media reported Thursday. About 126,000 cases have been reported this yearnearly 55,000 in March alone, 31 of which were fatal. Almost all patients were children under age 5. Health officials have said this year's strain is especially strong. In China's central Henan province alone, 25 deaths have been reported among about 31,000 cases, up 50 percent from figures released last week, the official Xinhua News Agency reported. The seven deaths reported Thursday occurred in Henan. State media reported last year that the virus sickened 27,000 children and killed dozens in the first few months of 2008 before reports of outbreaks subsided in May. Most of the cases this year have been in rural areas in the provinces of Henan, Shandong, Jiangsu, Guangxi, Anhui, Guangdong, Hebei, Hubei, Hunan and Zhejiang.

Strong earthquake shakes Indonesia

NEW YORK (AP)—The U.S. Geological Survey says a strong earthquake has shaken parts of western Indonesia. The agency says the 6.1-magnitude temblor occurred early Thursday, local time, in the Kepulauan Mentawai region of small islands off the west coast of Sumatra. The epicenter was about 480 miles (770 kilometers) westnorthwest of Jakarta, the Indonesian capital on the island of Java. Rafael Abreu, a geophysicist with the USGS, says there was no immediate word of a tsunami. "In our experience it wasn't strong enough to generate a large tsunami." But he says his agency does have reports that the quake was felt in Padang, a city on Sumatra island about 145 miles north of the epicenter.

Vietnam suspends newspaper over China reporting

HANOI, Vietnam (AP)—Authorities in Vietnam have shut down a newspaper for three months over controversial articles on a territorial dispute with neighboring China, state media reported Thursday. The Ministry of Information and Communication shut down the biweekly Du Lich (Tourism) for its "serious violation" of Vietnam's press law, the Thanh Nien (Young People) newspaper said. Authorities accused the paper of publishing untruthful information as well as inciting violence and sowing hatred among nations, Thanh Nien said. The report did not specify the information in question. The shutdown took effect Tuesday, and the ministry also ordered the newspaper to reshuffle its leadership, Thanh Nien reported. Communist Vietnam maintains strict control over all local media.

Pro-rebel report: Fighting resumes in Sri Lanka

COLOMBO, Sri Lanka (AP)—Sri Lankan forces attacked Tamil guerrillas with mortar fire, artillery and heavy machine guns Wednesday following a two-day cease-fire aimed at letting civilians flee the war zone, a pro-rebel Web site reported. The government said it had only launched a "rescue mission."

The reported fighting could mark the start of planned final assault aimed at destroying the Tamil Tigers and ending this Indian Ocean island nation's 25-year-old civil war. However, tens of thousands of civilians remain trapped in the war zone, and diplomats and human rights groups have called on both sides to exercise restraint.

The government had announced a unilateral cease-fire Monday and Tuesday and asked civilians trapped inside the war zone to move out, but only a few hundred left. The government says the rebels are preventing the civilians from escaping, while the rebels say the civilians don't want to leave.

The TamilNet Web site said the government launched a large-scale attack for three hours Wednesday morning near a "no-fire zone" intended as a refuge for the civilians in the area. Families huddled in bunkers for safety, but as many as 180 civilians were killed in the fighting, the Web site said.

China's navy to build new ships, planes

BEIJING (AP)—China's navy will move faster to build large combat warships, next-generation aircraft and sophisticated torpedoes in a modernizing overhaul for fighting in an era of information technology, its commander in chief said.

Sophisticated weapons are key to winning a regional sea battle, Adm. Wu Shengli told the official Xinhua News Agency late Thursday. The navy wants submarines with greater stealth capabilities, high-speed intelligent torpedoes, electronic weapons, supersonic cruise aircraft and long-range missiles with high accuracy.

"The navy will move faster in researching and building new-generation weapons to boost the ability to

BEIJING (AP)—China's navy will fight in regional sea wars under the circumstances of information techwarships, next-generation aircraft nology," Wu said.

Wu's comments came ahead of the 60th anniversary of the founding of the Chinese navy next Thursday. Wu is a member of the Central Military Commission, China's top military body which is headed by President Hu Jintao.

With most of China's perceived threats to its sovereignty emanating from the ocean, the navy has been a particular beneficiary of China's modernization.

But military spending increases—that include billions of dollars worth of new warplanes, ships and submarines to project force farther from China's shores—have drawn concern over

China's intentions from the U.S. and neighbors such as Japan, although Beijing insists it intends no aggression.

Earlier this year, China announced a 14.9 percent rise in military spending in its 2009 budget, to 480.68 billion yuan (\$70.36 billion), the 19th double-digit percentage increase in defense spending in 20 years. It did not give a breakdown of the defense budget.

Wu did not mention aircraft carriers, but the official China Daily quoted Senior Col. Li Jie, a researcher at the Chinese navy's Military Academy, as saying the large combat warships would include aircraft carriers. Chinese military officials have been saying that building an aircraft carrier was simply a matter of time.

Indians start voting in monthlong elections

NEW DELHI (AP)—The world's largest democratic elections opened Thursday with tens of millions of people heading to vote in India in a monthlong process expected to yield no clear winner to lead the country as it grapples with global economic malaise.

Thursday's polling was the first of five phases in which a total of about 714 million people—more than twice the population of the United States—will be eligible to cast ballots.

The first phase included central

and eastern states battered by attacks by Maoist militants, leading to the deployment of tens of thousands of soldiers and police.

Early Thursday, suspected rebels opened fire on paramilitary soldiers patrolling in the eastern state of Jharkhand, killing six troops, police said.

Reinforcements were sent to secure the area in Latehar, about 80 miles (130 kilometers) northwest of Ranchi, the state capital, superintendent of police Hemant Topo said.

In the neighboring state of Bihar suspected rebels attacked a polling station in Gaya district, killing a policeman, the area's Deputy Inspector General Anupama Nilokar said.

The guerrillas, known as Naxalites, have fought the government for decades in a handful of rural regions, charging authorities with plundering natural resources while providing little to local residents. Since Saturday, nearly 20 police officers have died in their attacks.

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World

French raid pirate ship, US seeks to freeze assets

MOMBASA, Kenya (AP)—The U.S. and its allies battled Somalia's pirates on two fronts Wednesday, with French forces seizing a bandit mother ship and Washington seeking to keep the marauders from their spoils. Another U.S. freighter headed to port with armed sailors aboard after pirates damaged it with gunshots and grenades.

One pirate issued a new threat to "slaughter" Americans, and Tuesday's assault on a second U.S. cargo ship, the Liberty Sun, underscored the outlaws' ability to act with impunity despite international naval operations against them and mounting concern worldwide over how to end the escalating attacks off the Horn of Africa.

Pirates bombarded the U.S.-flagged Liberty Sun with automatic weapons fire and rocket-propelled grenades, but its American crew of about 20 successfully blockaded themselves in the engine room and warded off the attack with evasive maneuvers.

The ship, carrying food aid for hungry Africans—including Somalis—was damaged "pretty badly" on its bridge, a U.S. official said on condition of ano-



This photo taken Wednesday April 15, 2009 and released by the French Defense Ministry, showing the interception of a small vessel, left, by French military officers aboard two dinghies, right, on Wednesday, 550 miles (900 kilometers) east of the Kenyan port of Mombasa.

nymity because he was not authorized to speak on the record about the ship.

Windows were blown out and the crew had to put out a small fire, the official said, but they were still able to

navigate. By the time the USS Bainbridge arrived five hours later, the pirates were gone.

Meanwhile, French naval forces launched an early-morning attack on a

suspected pirate "mother ship" 550 miles east of Mombasa and seized 11 men, thwarting an attack on the Liberian cargo ship Safmarine Asia, the French Defense Ministry said. No one was injured.

The ministry said the vessel was a larger ship that pirates use to allow their tiny skiffs to operate hundreds of miles off the coast.

French Foreign Ministry spokesman Christophe Prazuck said a French helicopter in the area heard a distress call from the Safmarine Asia. He described the seized ship as a small, noncommercial vessel carrying fuel, water and food supplies.

The 11 pirates, believed to be Somalis, were being held on the Nivose, a French frigate among the international fleet trying to protect shipping in the Gulf of Aden.

France has been proactive against pirates for at least the past year, intervening to save three of its ships and spearheading a Europe-wide anti-piracy force called Atalanta. French politicians have sought to have other European countries take greater action against pirates.

Three Somali pirates in the French city of Rennes faced judicial investigation after being captured in a hostage rescue Friday. Several other pirates also have been in French custody since last year.

Iran willing to build new relationship with US

TEHRAN, Iran (AP)—Iran's president on Wednesday sent the clearest signal yet that the Islamic Republic wants warmer ties with the U.S., just one day after Washington spoke of new strategies to address the country's disputed nuclear program. Taken together, the developments indicate that the longtime adversaries are seeking ways to return to the negotiating table and ease a nearly 30-year-old diplomatic standoff. President Barack Obama's administration has sought to start a dialogue with Iran—a departure from the Bush administration's tough talk.

Iran had mostly dismissed the overtures, continuing to take hard-line steps like putting an American journalist on trial on espionage allegations.

But in his speech Wednesday, President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad changed his tone, saying that Iran was preparing new proposals aimed at breaking an impasse with the West over its nuclear program.

"The Iranian nation is a generous nation. It may forget the past and start a new era, but any country speaking on the basis of selfishness will get the same response the Iranian nation gave to Mr. Bush," Ahmadinejad told thousands in the southeastern city of Kerman.

Most-wanted Colombia drug lord caught 'like a dog'

BOGOTA (AP)—Colombia's most wanted drug lord was cowering like a dog under a palm tree when he was captured Wednesday in a jungle raid involving hundreds of police officers, the defense minister said.

Daniel Rendon Herrera, alias "Don Mario," was taken in shackles to the capital to await possible extradition to the United States.

Rendon Herrera allegedly commanded hundreds of armed men in a private militia and directed a criminal organization that sent hundreds of tons of cocaine to the U.S.

President Alvaro Uribe described Rendon Herrera, 43, as "one of the most feared drug traffickers in the world."

Rendon Herrera's organization is

responsible for 3,000 murders in the last 18 months alone, said Gen. Oscar Naranjo, who directs the national police. Police said he had offered his assassins \$1,000 for each officer they killed, in hopes of evading arrest.

Colombian officials had offered a reward of up to \$2 million for information leading to the capture of the man whose organization has allegedly served as a key link between rightwing paramilitary groups and Mexico's drug-trafficking cartels.

"This guy put bounties on the heads of government officials, so he was Public Enemy No. 1 in Colombia," said Thomas Harrigan, operations chief for the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration.

The U.S. wants to put him on trial



in New York on charges of conspiring to distribute cocaine into the United States, outlined in a bare-bones, fourpage federal indictment filed last July and unsealed Wednesday. Such extraditions can take months.

Some 300 police officers joined the raid in the northern Colombian jungle town of San Jose de Apartado. Uribe said nine months of patient planning and intelligence work went into the operation, which he described as new proof Colombia's government is capable of combatting organized crime.

Police officers escort Colombian drug trafficker Daniel Rendon Herrera, center, at a police airport in Bogota, Wednesday, April 15,2009.

Iraq study: Executions are leading cause of death

BAGHDAD (AP)—Executionstyle killings, not headline-grabbing bombings, have been the leading cause of death among civilians in the Iraq war, a study released Wednesday shows. The findings, published in the New England Journal of Medicine, point to the brutal sectarian nature of the conflict, where death squads once roamed the streets hunting down members of the rival Muslim sect. Estimates of the number of civilians killed in Iraq vary widely. The study was based on the database maintained by Iraq Body Count, a private group that among other sources uses media reports including those of The Associated Press.

The authors concede the data is not comprehensive but maintain that the study provides a reliable gauge of how Iraqis have died in the six-year conflict.

The findings also provide further ev-

idence of the brutal sectarian cleansing and retaliatory violence between Shiites and Sunnis that pushed the country to the brink of civil war before easing a year and a half ago.

"I think that a lot of the executions with torture had to do with trying to get people to move out of their houses," said Michael Spagat, one of the study's authors. "It had to strike fear into people's hearts. A lot of it is just hatred and retribution."

the bishops group. The delegation will

be led by Phil Fontaine, national chief

of the Assembly of First Nations, and

The study covered the period from the March 20, 2003 invasion through March 19, 2008, in which 91,358 violent deaths were recorded by Iraq Body Count.

The total number of civilian deaths in Iraq is widely disputed, but the count by the London-based group is widely considered a credible minimum.

Apart from media reports, Iraq Body Count uses figures from morgues and hospitals since the war started.

WORLD BRIEFS

Egypt to search 3 sites for Cleopatra's tomb

CAIRO (AP)—Archaeologists will begin excavating sites in Egypt next week in an attempt to solve a mystery that has stymied historians for hundreds of years: Where is the final resting place of doomed lovers Cleopatra and Mark Antony? Archaeologists looking for the tombs of the celebrated queen of Egypt and the Roman general will begin excavating three sites at a temple where tombs may be located, Egypt's Supreme Council of Antiquities said in a statement Wednesday. Cleopatra and Mark Antony, whose

relationship was later immortalized by William Shakespeare and then in a movie with Elizabeth Taylor and Richard Burton, could have been buried in a deep shaft in a temple near the Mediterranean Sea, the council said. Archaeologists last year unearthed the alabaster head of a Cleopatra statue, 22 coins bearing Cleopatra's image and a mask believed to belong to Mark Antony at the temple.

Pope to acknowledge suffering at Canadian schools

TORONTO (AP)—Pope Benedict XVI is expected to acknowledge abuse of aboriginals at Christian-run schools

when he meets with survivors later this month at the Vatican, a spokesman for the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops said Wednesday. From the 19th century until the 1970s, more than 150,000 Indian children were made to attend state-funded Christian schools as an effort to assimilate them into Canadian society. Nearly 75 percent of the 130 schools were run by Catholic missionary congregations. Prime Minister Stephen Harper apologized in Parliament last year, calling the physical and sexual abuse of children at the schools a sad chapter in the country's history. The pope plans to express regret when he meets with former students April 29. said Gerald Baril, spokesman for

Archbishop James Weisgerber, the conference president.

US Army soldier con-

US Army soldier convicted over 2007 Iraq deaths

VILSECK, Germany (AP)—A U.S. Army soldier was convicted Wednesday of murder in the execution-style slayings of four bound and blindfolded Iraqi detainees. The prosecution said Master Sgt. John Hatley acted as "judge, jury and executioner" to atch the plot and carry out the killings in spring 2007. Hatley and two others took the

detainees to a canal in Baghdad's West Rasheed neighborhood where they shot them in the back of the head with 9mm pistols, the prosecution said. An eightstrong military jury found Hatley guilty of premeditated murder and conspiracy to commit premeditated murder after a three days of proceedings. But the jury found him not guilty of obstruction of justice in the incident and not guilty of premeditated murder in a separate January 2007 death of an Iraqi insurgent. Hatley and his wife, who sat directly behind him in the gallery, were unmoved as the jury foreman read out the decision. They hugged and smiled after the court adjourned and his friends and comrades in court wished him well.

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Science & Technology

Making your iPod battery last

(C) 2009, THE HARTFORD COURANT

Apple has made replacing the battery either challenging, risky or impossible for most iPod owners. Return it, Apple says, and it'll replace it with someone else's returned iPod, newly freshened up and impregnated with a fresh battery. Apple charges anywhere from \$49 for a Shuffle to \$79 for a Touch.

For my old-time (first-generation) Nano, a measly 2 gigabytes and itself long since replaced by a Touch, investing \$59 for a \$2.85 battery didn't make sense. So I bought a \$2.85 (plus shipping) lithium-ion battery from Amazon. com and did it myself.

Apple didn't make it easy but let's just say it can be done. Newer iPods are much more difficult. For the Touch, don't even think DIY. Better to think now about prolonging your iPod battery's life before determining if you can stomach a transplant. Here are some tips, most of them Apple-approved:

- 1. Use it or lose it. Do not leave an iPod dormant for months. That was my mistake with the Nano. Run the battery down, although not necessarily out, once a month to keep the little lithium ion happy.
- 2. Keep iTunes software up to date. If there's new software, you'll find it via iTunes when connecting the iPod to a computer with Internet access.
- 3. Use small audio files. The bigger ones (WAV, AIFF or Apple Lossless) sound much better when played through your home audio system, but they're tough on the iPod's batterydriven hard drive. The smaller audio files (MP3 or AAC) are less taxing on both the hard drive and the battery.

All songs purchased from the

Q. How can I check my

home e-mail account

from multiple locations

without losing track of

which messages I've read

and answered?



iTunes Store are smaller files. If you're loading CDs onto your computer, set the file size in iTunes by going to Edit/Preferences/Import Settings. Hint: You can keep the larger, bettersounding files on your computer for your home audio system while creating MP3 versions for

4. Switch the iPod into Hold mode. If you carry around an iPod in a pocket or purse, you could accidentally activate it and drain the battery.

iPod use

- **5. Check the settings.** If you don't need something, turn it off. Backlighting while listening to music? Don't need it. Deactivate the equalizer by setting it to "flat." Turn off Sound Check.
- 7. Create iTunes playlists instead of using the iPod's "shuffle" mode.
- 8. Don't overuse the "next" and "previous" functions.
- 9. For the Touch, reduce the brightness setting. Turn off auto-brightness and "ask to join

networks." Turn off Wi-Fi when not in use, too. Use the sleep/ wake button instead of on/off if vou'll return to the Touch soon. (Turning on the Touch uses more power than simply waking it.) Under "fetch new data," which automatically imports e-mail, turn off "push" and set 'fetch" to manual. Turn "fetch" mail to the manual setting.

10. Keep the iPod, and its battery, at room temperature when possible. Extreme cold, below freezing, will make the iPod sluggish. Extreme heat, above 95 degrees, could damage the battery.

Want to watch a double feature during a cross-country flight but fear your iPod won't have enough juice? Try an external battery pack/charger. The Kensington Battery Pack and Charger for iPod (about \$45) promises 21 hours of video and up to 100 hours of music.

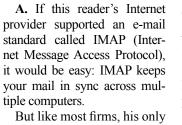
With proper care, an iPod battery should last about 400 charges. Enjoy it while it lasts.

has made replacing the battery either challenging, risky or impossible for most iPod owners.

HELP FILE

By ROB PEGORARO

(c) 2009, The Washington Post



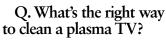
supports the older, less flexible POP (Post Office Protocol)

The Web-mail interfaces most Internet providers offer, in turn, are usually clumsy, slow and ugly.

One workaround, as suggested by another reader in the same Web chat, would be to set up an IMAP-capable Web-mail account to fetch messages from the first inbox. For example,

Google's Gmail allows IMAP access and can fetch mail via POP; the mail system in Apple's \$100 a year MobileMe service offers those features, too. Then, whether you check e-mail on the Web or in a program synced to the Web-mail account, you'll always see which messages you've read, answered or forwarded.

Set those applications to use your original account as your return address and nobody will realize you're using this somewhat Rube Goldberg-esque routine.



A. The screen is made of glass, but household cleaners can eat away at the chemical coatings manufacturers apply.

Instead, use only a lint-free cloth barely dampened with water and, if necessary, very little dish soap. Panasonic's Web site suggests "1 part mild liquid dish soap diluted by 100 times the amount of water." (Samsung's site differs, recommending the screen cleaning solutions sold in most electronics stores.) The same drill applies to LCD TVs and computer monitors.

Off The Wall

OFFBEAT BRIEFS

Baby pythons escape during flight in Australia

MELBOURNE, Australia (AP)—Four baby pythons escaped from a container aboard a passenger plane in Australia, leading to a search that forced the cancellation of two flights, the airline said Thursday. Twelve non-venemous Stimson pythons were being transported Tuesday on a flight from Alice Springs to Melbourne in the plane's cargo area in a bag inside a plastic foam box with air holes. When the flight landed, it was discovered that four snakes had escaped from the package, a Qantas spokeswoman said in a statement. A reptile expert searched for the 6-inch-long snakes but did not find them. It was not known if the snakes were still on the plane or if they had somehow escaped outside after the plane landed. When the snakes were not found, the airplane was fumigated and it returned to service on Wednesday.

Man punched after removing Cowboys flag from car

WASHINGTON (AP)—Police said a man was punched in the face after grabbing a Dallas Cowboys flag from a car in downtown Washington. D.C. police Lt. Eric Hayes said someone snatched the flag from a car as it was stopped in traffic Tuesday evening and apparently threw it to the ground. Police and witnesses said that by the time the man crossed the street, someone exited the car and struck him in the face before driving away. Police said the incident may have been motivated by team loyalty, or the motorist might not have wanted anyone to touch his car. Police said a man was taken from the scene to be treated for a bruised forehead.

Ill. police say boy, to rob bank

PEORIA, III. (AP)—A 13-year-old boy used a handgun to rob a Peoria bank before police caught him hiding in a nearby garage after a foot chase. Police said the teen used the gun to rob South Side Bank on Monday. They said he fled the bank with the weapon and a bag of money wearing a black hooded sweatshirt, black pants and a red bandana on his face. Police apprehended him 36 minutes after the robbery was reported. They said the money bag contained a red dye package that had exploded. Police said the teen's sweatshirt was covered with red dve. Authorities found the gun and money near where they arrested the boy.

Man crashes truck through gate at Arkansas airport

FORT SMITH, Ark. (AP)—A man in a pickup truck crashed through a fence gate at the Fort Smith airport, drove 100 yards and attempted to reach a parked airplane. The man, 28, would not have gotten anywhere after reaching the tarmac Thursday morning—the plane was missing its propellers. Witnesses told police that the man said he needed to "get to Israel" and that he had "all the answers." The man was arrested and taken to county jail. He faces charges of felony criminal mischief and misdemeanor criminal trespass. Police said the front gate and about 20 feet of fence were damaged.

'Caveman' thwarts store robber with step ladder

ACWORTH, Ga. (AP)—Police said a would-be robber got more than he bargained for when he tried to rob a Quik Thrift store with a knife. A quick-thinking customer, known only as "Caveman," grabbed a step ladder and hit the suspect at least once Monday. The customer chased the suspect from the store using the ladder as protection. Police said the suspect had threatened to cut the store clerk's neck if money wasn't handed over. Police said the suspect escaped with some money, but he dropped much of it when he was hit with the ladder. Police are still searching for

Man allegedly stabs brother over pork and beans

GILLIAM, La. (AP)—A sheriff's deputy said a 54-year-old man stabbed his 63-year-old brother during an argument in their kitchen over a can of pork and beans. Sheriff's spokeswoman Cindy Chadwick said the suspect was booked Tuesday on one count of aggravated battery. Chadwick said the brother was treated at a medical center for stab wounds in his left arm and shoulder blade. Chadwick quoted Deputy Jairo Rivera as saying the two brothers had been drinking. Rivera said the suspect picked up a kitchen knife after his brother threw a punch at him but missed.

Man plays same number on 20 tickets, wins \$90K

RICHMOND, Va. (AP)— A North Carolina man has a knack for picking the winning number for Virginia Lottery drawings. The lottery said Wednesday that Steve Granger of Henderson, N.C., won \$90,800 in Sunday night's Pick 4 drawing by playing the same number combination, 5-1-1-7, on 20 tickets. Sixteen tickets each won \$5,000 because Granger wagered "exact order" on them. The other four tickets each won \$2,700 because he wagered "50/50" on them. Granger said if he has a feeling about a number, he'll play it. Granger had won \$900,000 in the lottery's Cash 5 drawing on Sept. 28, 2005.

Pa. man begs to be sent to jail, but judge refuses HOLLIDAYBURG,

(AP)—A central Pennsylvania man begged a judge to send him to jail, only to have the judge tell him to borrow money to repay a convenience store \$214 for gasoline the man allegedly stole in six separate trips. Jerome Banks, 42, wanted Blair County Judge Hiram Carpenter to jail him Tuesday. Banks said he's due to receive disability payments in about a year, but for now claims he's broke and can't repay the Sheetz store in Tyrone for gas he stole last June and July. Carpenter refused to accept Banks guilty plea and send him to jail. The judge told Banks he'd still owe the money after he got out of jail, so he might as well pay it off sooner—at which time Carpenter said he'll dismiss the charges. The judge gave Banks until May 4 to pay.

Police say 'doc' used vet gear to perform implants

MADRID (AP)—A Spanish man accused of using veterinary equipment to perform cosmetic surgery is in the doghouse. Catalonian regional police said they arrested the 63-year-old Barcelona native for allegedly practicing medicine without a license in filthy conditions at his home. The police said in a statement released Wednesday that the man charged his human patients between euro250 and euro500 (\$330 to \$660) to perform breast or buttocks implants and used a veterinary tool normally used to inject animals. The police statement said the bogus doctor worked in the company of his three dogs, a cat and a parrot. Police arrested the man Friday after authorities received a complaint about a shoddy breast implant.

SAIPAN TRIBUNE FRIDAY, APRIL 17, 2009 **25**

Life & Style

Former Ill. governor wants to join reality TV show

you thought the saga of ousted Illinois Gov. Rod Blagojevich couldn't get any stranger, it has.

Blagojevich wants to star on the NBC reality show "I'm a Celebrity Get Me Out of Here!"—a program similar to "Survivor" in which contestants will be plopped down in the Costa Rican jungle to perform sweaty physical tasks, scheme to avoid elimination

and throw tantrums for the camera.

If a federal judge gives permission, the man who faces years in prison on corruption charges could be following in the steps of Flava Flav and Kathy Griffin—D-list celebrities willing to play the clown on TV.

Perhaps he will have to retrieve items from Blagojevich a crocodile-infested

swamp, like one participant on an earlier version of "I'm a Celebrity ..."

"I'm sure Illinois viewers would love to see Blagojevich have to do something like that—especially if the crocodiles win," said Jenn Brasler, associate editor of the Web site RealityNewsOnline.

First, Blagojevich needs to get Judge James B. Zagel to let him leave the country with a pending criminal case. He was ordered to surrender his passport after

SPRINGFIELD, Ill. (AP)—Just when his December arrest on charges that included trying to sell off President Barack Obama's vacant Senate seat.

Northwestern University law professor Anthony D'Amato said the judge might be willing to approve the project because of Costa Rica's strong extradition agreement with the United States—meaning Blagojevich could not just hole up there forever. But the decision is far from certain, particularly

> with a judge known for being strict.

> Blagojevich, who pleaded not guilty on Tuesday, has plenty on his mind without adding a TV show to the mix. Illinois lawmakers impeached him and booted him from office in Janu-

Since his arrest, he has announced a deal to write a book,

hosted a Chicago radio talk show and made the New York talk show circuit, chatting it up with everyone from David Letterman to the women of "The View.'

But to people who know Blagojevich or know the business of reality TV, the idea of him appearing on "I'm a Celebrity ..." isn't terribly shocking.

Illinois Rep. Lou Lang, a fellow Democrat, said Blagojevich needs both money and attention, and television is a

Appearing on the show will give the out-of-work former governor some much-needed cash for his legal defense, Lang said, and it will keep Blagojevich in the public spotlight, where he can repeat his claims of being an innocent man victimized by political enemies.

Blagojevich has had trouble assembling a defense team, which his attorney attributes to a lack of money. "I can guarantee you I will not be watching. I think it's disgusting," added Lang, who was once a Blagojevich supporter.

Plenty of other people probably would watch the former governor, who once dreamed of being president and is now a national joke, the target of "Saturday Night Live" parodies and latenight monologues.

Andy Dehnart, editor of the Web site Reality Blurred, said Blagojevich may not be a star, but he's hotter right now than the typical contestant on a reality show. For instance, another participant on "I'm a Celebrity ..." is rumored to be Nancy Kerrigan, the skater who has largely been out of the spotlight for 15 years.

Blagojevich has become accustomed to television cameras. As his impeachment trial got under way in Springfield, he launched a media blitz, rushing from one TV studio to another in New York to proclaim his innocence. He likened himself to the hero of a Frank Capra movie and to a cowbov in the hands of a Wild West lynch mob.

'Kite Runner' among last year's challenged books

NEW YORK (AP)—Not everybody loves "The Kite Runner."

Khaled Hosseini's million-selling novel about friendship and betrayal between two Afghan boys, a book club favorite that became a feature film, was among the releases mostly likely to inspire complaints last year from parents, educators and others, the American Library Association announced Thursday.

"The Kite Runner," which includes a rape scene, has been criticized for offensive language and sexual content. A parent in Champaign, Ill., and a school board official in Morganton, N.C., were among those who challenged "The Kite Runner" last year.

The ALA listed 513 challenges last year, an increase of 93 from 2007, but well below the levels of 700 and higher in the 1990s. The ALA defines a challenge as a "formal, written complaint filed with a library or school requesting that materials be removed because of content or appropriateness."

For every challenge tallied, about four or five end up unreported, according to the ALA.

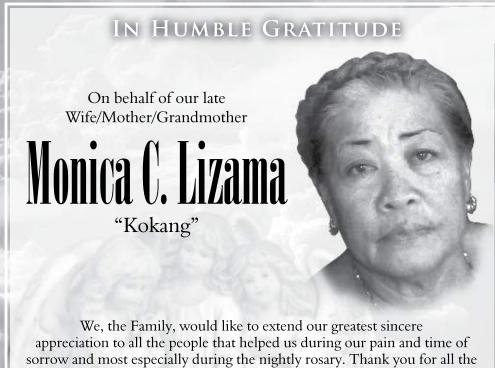
For the third year in a row, the most challenged book was "And Tango Makes Three," Justin Richardson's and Peter Parnell's award-winning picture story about two male penguins who become parents. "Tango" was cited for being anti-family, progay and anti-religion.

Also high on the list were Philip Pullman's "Dark Materials" trilogy (complaints for being violent and anti-religious), Cecily von Ziegesar's "Gossip Girls" series (language, sexually explicit), Alvin Schwartz's "Scary Stories" (violence, occultism) and Stephen Chbosky's "The Perks of Being a Wallflower" (drugs, suicide, nudity, language).

ALA spokeswoman Macey Morales said that books were actually pulled at least 74 times last year. Those removed included Sherman Alexie's "The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian" (refers to masturbation), Jodi Picoult's "My Sister's Keeper" (sexually explicit) and Mark Bowden's "Black Hawk Down" (profanity).

In the fall, the library association will co-sponsor the 28th annual "Banned Books Week," a nationwide program founded in 1982 that highlights banned and challenged books. Thursday's list was released just days after "Banned Book Weeks" founder Judith Krug died of cancer at age 69.





prayers and comfort that you have given us.

Special thanks to Honorable Governor Benigno R. Fitial, Techa Emily Taitano, CHC-ICU Nurses and Doctors, Dr. Aldan, St. Jude Renal Dialysis Center, DPS Police and Fire Dept., Bishop Thomas Camacho, Father Bong, Father Jesse, Auntie Kina's Choir, Chuukese Choirs, Ghatoliyool Clan, Auntie Mona Taisakan-Rebuenog, Ben-Cam, John and Gloria Sablan, Luisa Matagolai-Quitugua, Ton Atalig, Jose Atalig, families from Guam, Rota, Tinian, and Saipan, the Legislature, Congressmen, Congresswomen, Mayor Juan B. Tudela, Northern Island Mayor Valentino Taisakan and Senators, our friends and families. And also to those that we fail to mention, you will always be in our hearts and thoughts.

Thank you, Si Yu'us Ma'ase, Ghilisoow, and God Speed.

From

Joaquin C. Lizama, Jun, Ding, Mel, Ed. Nard, Audy, Daidang, Fred, Claud, Tona, Rit, Kenya and Family

Woody Allen says American Apparel is harassing him

director Woody Allen has accused a clothing company of trying to harass and intimidate him with a "scorched earth" approach to defending itself against a \$10 million lawsuit. In papers filed Wednesday by his lawyers, the 73-year-old Allen said American Apparel Inc. went too far in requesting information about his family life, personal finances and career.

Allen sued the company last year for using his image on the company's billboards in Hollywood and New York and on a Web site. Allen, who does not endorse products in the United States, said he had not authorized the displays, which the Los Angeles-based company said were up for a week.

The new court papers said American Apparel has "adopted a 'scorched earth' approach," issuing broad document requests and subpoenas to many people close to him, including his sister.

Allen's lawyers said the company was seeking to "tarnish Mr. Allen's reputation a second time" and called it a "despicable effort to intimate" him.

American Apparel lawyer Stuart Slotnick said the company plans to make Allen's relationships to actress Mia Farrow and her adopted daughter Soon-Yi Previn, whom Allen married, the focus of a trial scheduled to begin in federal court in Manhattan on May 18.

"Woody Allen expects \$10 million for use of his image on billboards that were up and down in less than one week," Slotnick said. "I think Woody Allen overestimates the value of his image."

He said the company's belief was that "after the various sex

America's desire to have Woody Allen endorse their product is not what he may believe it is."

One billboard featured a frame from "Annie Hall," a film that won Allen a best-director Oscar. The image showed Allen dressed as a Hasidic Jew with a long beard and black hat and Yiddish text. The words "American Apparel" also were on the billboard.

Allen's lawsuit said the billboard falsely implied he sponsored, endorsed or was associated with American Apparel.

Slotnick said it was not a cheap shot to bring up Allen's sex life in a lawsuit over the billboard and Internet ads.

"It's certainly relevant in assessing the value of an endorsement," he said.

Farrow starred in several of scandals that Woody Allen has Allen's movies during a rela-



In this Dec. 19, 2008 file photo, U.S. actor and director performs with the Woody Allen Star Team in the 'Kulturpalast' hall in Dresden, Eastern Germany Friday, Dec. 19, 2008.

ended in 1992, when she discovered he was having an affair with her oldest adopted daughter, Previn, then 22. Allen married Previn in 1997.

During a bitter custody fight, Farrow accused Allen of sexually abusing their adopted daughter Dylan, 7. Allen was exonerated of the abuse charges, but Farrow won sole custody.

American Apparel is known for its provocative ads of scantily dressed models in tight-fitting and sometimes see-through garments.

Allen testified at a December deposition that he considered the company's advertising to be "sleazy" and "infantile."

The newly filed court papers revealed new excerpts from Allen, including why he might appeal to some advertisers.

"I've always been, from the start of my career, a special taste," he said. "There have always been people that have loved me and there have always been people that didn't know what I was about and couldn't see anything in me."

Sanny Howe wins poetry prize

By LEE MARGULIES

Fanny Howe has been announced as the winner of the \$100,000 Ruth Lilly Poetry Prize for lifetime achievement.

The Chicago-based Poetry Foundation, which presents the award, said Tuesday that Howe's poetry "can be elusive and hermetic, and then abruptly and devastatingly candid; it is marked by the pressures of history and culture, yet (is) defiantly, transcendently lyrical."

Howe, 68, lives on Martha's

Vineyard, Mass. Her books include "On the Ground." "The Lyrics" and "Gone."

The foundation also awarded a \$10,000 prize for criticism to Ange Mlinko, whose work has appeared in the New Yorker, the Nation and on the Poetry Foundation Web site.

BEST SELLERS

Nonfiction

Act Like a Lady, Think Like a Man, by Steve Harvey (Amistad: \$23.99) The talk-show host lets women inside the mind-set of a man.

Liberty and Tyranny, by Mark R. Levin (Threshold Editions: \$25) The talk-radio host's call to revitalize the conservative vision in America.

Outliers, by Malcolm Gladwell (Little, Brown: \$27.99) An exploration of the background of high achievers.

House of Cards, by William D. Cohan (Doubleday: \$27.95) A narrative chronicling the fall of Bear Stearns and the Wall Street meltdown.

The Mirror Effect, by Drew Pinsky and S. Mark Young (Harper: \$26.99) The Celebrity Rehab host explores the media's obsession with celebrity and how young people imitate

How We Decide, by Jonah Lehrer (Houghton Mifflin: \$25) Insight and understanding of human decision-making

The Lost City of Z, by David Grann (Doubleday: \$27.50) Col. Percy Fawcett's quest to find an ancient Amazonian society.

The Last Lecture, by Randy Pausch with Jeffrey Zaslow (Hyperion: \$21.95) A professor's terminal cancer inspires a call to seize life's moments.

The Yankee Years, by Joe Torre (Doubleday: \$26.95) Behind the scenes of what it really took to try to keep the Yankees on top of

A Lion Called Christian, by Anthony Bourke and John Rendall (Broadway: \$21.95) The relationship among two men and a lion adopted from Harrods and later set free in Africa.

Fiction

True Detectives, by Jonathan Kellerman (Ballantine: \$27). Two crime solving brothers find themselves assigned to the same missing

Eclipse, by Stephenie Meyer (Little, Brown: \$19.99). Bella must choose between her lover and a friend, between life and death.

Long Lost, by Harlan Coben (Dutton: \$27.95). Private eye Myron Bolitar takes the case of a woman accused of murdering her ex.

Breaking Dawn, by Stephenie Meyer (Little, Brown: \$22.99). The final book in the Twilight saga finds Bella choosing immortality.

The Long Fall, by Walter Mosley (Riverhead: \$25.95). A former bad guy turned P.I. tries to redeem himself.

Diary of a Wimpy Kid: The Last Straw, by Jeff Kinney (Amulet: \$12.95). Greg's dad enlists him in sports to toughen him up.

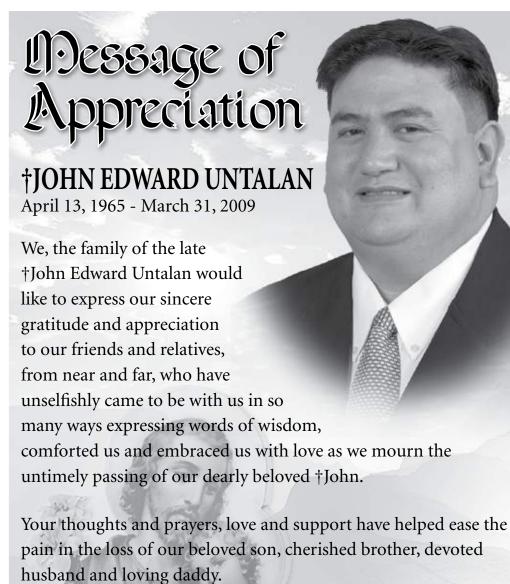
The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society, by Mary Ann Shaffer and Annie Barrows (Dial Press: \$22). A writer corresponds with islanders after German occupation.

The Host, by Stephenie Meyer (Little, Brown: \$25.99). Aliens take over the minds of hu-

The Women, by T.C. Boyle (Viking: \$27.95). Frank Lloyd Wright's life as told by four women who loved him.

The Associate, by John Grisham (Doubleday: \$27.95). A law school grad's dark secret is used to blackmail him into stealing files from

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To all of you who were by our side for the final moment

with †John and to all who were untiringly with

thank you very much from our hearts and we

us during the nightly rosaries and masses,

will always remember you in our prayers.

May God continue to bless you.

Si Yu'us Ma'ase

The Family

Maraming Salamat Po

Thank you

'Idol' judges save finalist from elimination

LOS ANGELES (AP)—A sequel has been one-time power to save him from elimination. greenlit for Matt Giraud on "American Idol."

The 23-year-old piano player from Kalamazoo, Mich., who crooned Bryan Adam's "Have You Ever Really Loved a Woman" from "Don Juan DeMarco" for his movie-themed performance Tuesday, received the fewest number of viewer votes Wednesday on the Fox singing competition. However, the judges decided to use their

Joining Giraud as the bottom three votegetters this week were 24-year-old mother of three Lil Rounds from Memphis, Tenn., and 22-year-old college student Anoop Desai from Chapel Hill, N.C

Because Giraud was rescued this week, two finalists will be sent packing following next week's disco-themed performances.

Ferrell survives 'Man vs. Wild' with Grylls



LOS ANGELES (AP)—Will Ferrell says it was a thrill to join adventurer Bear Grylls for an icy episode of Discovery Channel's "Man vs. Wild."

The channel said Wednesday that Ferrell and series host Grylls spent two days in Sweden's mountains and glaciers for a "Man vs. Wild" special.

With Grylls as his guide, Ferrell rappelled down frozen waterfalls, scavenged for food in the forest-including reindeer eyeballs-and improvised snow shoes from saplings.

Ferrell said being part of "Man vs. Wild" was the "thrill of a lifetime." In turn, Grylls said he did an amazing job in unforgiving conditions.

The episode is set to air in early June, coinciding with the release of Ferrell's new comedy-adventure film "Land of the Lost."

In this Thursday, July 17, 2008 file photo, Will Ferrell poses in Beverly Hills, Calif. Ferrell says it was a thrill to join adventurer Bear Grylls for an icy episode of Discovery Channel's "Man vs. Wild."

"Carry On" producer Rogers dies at 95

LONDON (AP)—Peter Rogers, producer of all 31 "Carry On" films, has died at age 95, Pinewood Studios said Wednesday.

Rogers died Tuesday at his home in Gerrards Cross, 20 miles (30 kilometers) northwest of London, the studio said.

He produced all of the innuendo-laden "Carry On" films, starting with "Carry On Sergeant" in 1958, and continued working at Pinewood Studies until early this year.

His last credit was as a coproducer of "Blood and Chocolate," a made-for-television horror/romance film in 2007.

"He was an institution at the film studios and a prolific film producer," said Ivan Dunleavv. chief executive of Pinewood Shepperton PLC.

The "Carry On" series was enormously popular and lucrative, though the humor based on leering references to breasts and bottoms was the despair of highbrow critics.

"We did have a wonderful time in those days but we weren't paid wonderful money," said Leslie Phillips, 84, an actor in the series.

That complaint was shared by other actors, but Rogers shrugged it off. "I do my best to make a film on time and under budget, that's all," he was quoted as saying in "Mr. Carry On," his authorized biography.

When the late Kenneth Williams demanded a car to ferry him to work, Rogers said the cost would come out of Williams' salary.

"We all argued about the money he (Rogers) paid us but I am in a fortunate position and I could move on," Phillips said.

Tawny Kitaen settles fraud suit against ex

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Tawny Kitaen and her ex-boyfriend have settled a lawsuit she brought against him claiming he cheated her out of \$3 million in assets during their four-year relationship.

Her lawyer, William Briggs, would not provide details on the settlement reached Wednesday, except to say that the 47-yearold actress is pleased with the settlement. The case was scheduled to go to trial next week.

Her former boyfriend, real

estate executive Philip Cyburt, denied any wrongdoing.

Kitaen accused Cyburt of taking money from her brokerage account, writing checks in her name and selling real estate that she owned.

The actress was featured in several 1980s heavy metal music videos, starred with Tom Hanks in the 1984 comedy "Bachelor Party," and recently appeared in VH1's "Celebrity Rehab with Dr. Drew."

Cosby kid Rudy in new reality show

Pulliam

NEW YORK (AP)—Rudy from "The Cosby Show" has grown up, and she's about to show off her life on cable TV.

Oxygen said Wednesday that it's developing a reality show about actress Keshia Knight

Pulliam and her livein boyfriend, Atlanta area entrepreneur Kaseem Penn. It will explore what it's like being young, rich, single and co-habitating. No air date is set for the show, titled "Keshia and Kaseem."

summer, Come

Oxygen will premiere a series called "Dance Your Ass Off." It'll be hosted by Marissa Jaret Winokur, who won a Tony for her performance in "Hairspray" as Tracy Turnblad, the full-figure teen who yearns to dance on a TV show in 1960s Baltimore; she's also appeared on "Dancing With the Stars." In the Oxygen show, competitors try to show off their dancing skills and lose weight—sort of like "The Biggest Loser" with rhythm.

Since being bought by NBC Universal, Oxygen has been seeking an audience of trendsetting women, generally aged 18 to 34. Its theme is "live out loud." Oxygen's most visible stars

are Tori Spelling and husband Dean Mc-Dermott, who are filming the fourth season of their own reality series based on their lives. The network announced a broad development deal with the pair to

make a TV movie, a makeover show that features the couple, and Web content based on Spelling's book "Mommywood."

The network will have two other new series later this year. "Addicted to Beauty," called a "docu-comedy," is about the staff of a plastic surgery facility in California. "The Naughty Kitchen with Chef Blythe Beck" follows the life of the 29-yearold, Dallas-based chef.

Jamie Foxx apologizes to Miley Cyrus



Foxx has apologized to teen star Miley Cyrus for a radio routine in which he urged the 16-year-old to "make a sex tape and grow up."

When the incident was brought up on the "Tonight" show Tuesday, Foxx apologized and said: "I didn't mean it maliciously."

Foxx had started talking about Cyrus on his Sirius satellite radio show after someone brought up the singer's recent feud with Radiohead. Foxx said: "Who is Miley Cyrus? The one with all the gums? She needs to get a gum transplant!"

Foxx noted to Jay Leno that he was doing a routine, saying: "Sometimes as comedians, you know, we go a little too far.

In this April 5, 2009 file photo, Jamie Foxx appears backstage at the 44th Annual Academy of Country Music Awards in Las Vegas.

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17 Again Friday 4:00 7:05 9:30 1:00 4:00 7:05 9:30 Sunday 1:00 4:00 7:05

Mon thru Thurs Zac Efron, Leslie Mann

Fantasy, Comedy • Rated PG 13

Synopsis

Synopsis

A middle-aged father wakes up to find he's seventeen again. So, he enrolls in the same high school as his children to be close to them. And in trying ro recapture his best years, Mike could lose the best things that ever happened to him



Crank: High Voltage

dts

Friday 4:10 7:25 9:55 1:15 4:10 7:25 9:55 1:15 4:10 7:25 1:15 4:10 Mon thru Thurs

Action, Thriller, Comedy • Rated R

Jason Statham, Amy Smart

itman Chev Chelios is kidnapped by a mysterious Chinese mobster. Three months later, he wakes up to discover his nearly indestructible heart has been surgically removed and replaced with a battery-operated ticker that requires regular jolts of electricity in order to work. After a dangerous escape from his captors, Chev is on Chinese Triads, headed by the dangerous 100 year-old elder Poon Dong.



State of Play

4:20 7:10 9:45 1:20 4:20 7:10 9:45 1:20 4:20 7:10 Friday Saturday 1:20 4:20 Sunday Mon thru Thurs 4:20 7:10 **Russel Crowe, Ben Affleck**

Drama Political • Rated PG 13

D.C. reporter Cal McCaffrey untangles a mystery of murder and collusion among some of the nation's most promising political and corporate figures. Handsome, unflappable U.S. Congressman Stephen Collins is the future of his political party: an honorable appointee who serves as the chairman of a mittee overseeing defense spending. All eyes are upon the rising star to be his party's contender for the upcoming presidential race.



Observe And Report

Friday Saturday 4:15 7:30 10:00 Sunday 1:10 4:15 7:30 Mon thru Thurs 4:15 7:30 Seth Rogen, Anna Faris

Comedy • Rated R

Fast & Furious

4:25 7:20 9:50 1:30 4:25 7:20 9:50 1:30 4:25 7:20 Saturday Sunday

Vin Diesel, Paul Walker Action, Thriller • Rated PG 13



You Changed My Life

Friday Saturday 4:30 7:15 9:40 1:25 4:30 7:15 4:30 7:15 Sunday Mon thru Thurs

John Lloyd Cruz, Sarah Geronimo Romance, Comedy • Rated NR



Monsters vs. Aliens

4:05 7:00 9:35 1:05 4:05 7:00 9:35 1:05 4:05 7:00 Saturday Sunday

Reese Witherspoon, Hugh Laurie Action, Comedy, Animated • Rated PG

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Stalking charge dropped against rapper Nate Dogg

COMPTON, Calif. (AP)—Criminal misdemeanor count of driving on a suscharges have been dropped against Nate Dogg, who was accused of stalking and threatening his estranged wife.

California prosecutors on Wednesday dropped the charges against the 38-yearold rapper, whose real name is Nathaniel Dwayne Hale, saying the alleged victim has not contacted them.

two counts of making criminal threats BET Comedy Awards at the Pasadena Civic and one count of stalking as well as a Center in Pasadena, Calif.

pended license stemming from a prior DUI conviction.

The criminal threat charges stem from a pair of e-mails Hale sent his wife, while the stalking charge accused him of chasing the woman's car on a freeway.

In this Sept. 28, 2004 file photo, Nate Dogg Hale pleaded not guilty in July to poses for a photograph during arrivals to the



Still no verdict in the Castroneves tax case

MIAMI (AP)—Jury deliberations will stretch into a fifth day in the complex tax evasion case of Brazilian race car driver Helio Castroneves and two codefendants.

The Miami jury finished work Wednesday without reaching a verdict.

U.S. District Judge Donald Graham gave them new definitions for some obscure areas of tax law. The two-time Indianapo-

lis 500 winner, his sister-business manager Katiucia Castroneves and attorney Alan Miller face more than six years in prison if convicted of tax evasion and conspiracy charges. Prosecutors say they set up a Panamanian shell company to hide Castroneves' income. Defense attorneys say they are innocent.

The 33-year-old Castroneves also won TV's "Dancing With The Stars" competition in 2007.

Austria sends woman to jail for threatening Caruso

VIENNA (AP)—An Austrian court has convicted a woman of threatening "CSI: Miami" star David Caruso and sentenced her to seven months in jail in a secure psychiatric unit, officials said Wednesday.

A court in the western city of Innsbruck handed down the sentence Tuesday, court spokesman Thomas Lechner said.

Lawyer Andreas Grabenweger said his client will appeal the ruling.

Prosecutors said the woman, identified only as Heidemarie S., allegedly sent more than 100 letters to the American actor in pursuit of an autograph and then sent a death threat in 2007 when he refused to give her one.

A court-appointed psychiatrist testified earlier that the woman has a "profound personality disorder."

The woman, who is in her



In this Oct. 30, 2006, file photo, actor David Caruso arrives at the Museum of Television and Radio's annual gala in Beverly Hills, Calif.

into custody last month after she was arrested in Mexico on immigration charges and deported back to Austria.

Caruso plays Miami police early 40s, twice failed to show Lt. Horatio Caine in the CBS up for her trial and was taken television network crime drama

Girl's doughnut tastes less sweet served in a paper bag

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

DEAR ABBY: I am 8 years old, and I love science. I am writing you because when I go to the doughnut shop, they always give me paper bags when I order my doughnut to eat there. I also notice other people getting bags they don't need because they are eating their doughnuts there, too.

How many trees have to die for no reason?

I care about recycling and how long it takes for

things to break down in the earth. What can I do so the doughnut shop will stop wasting bags?

MANDI IN SCARSDALE, N.Y.

DEAR MANDI: I respect the fact that you are conscientious about how your actions—and the actions of the people around vou-affect the environment. You are a sharp young lady.

What you should do is speak to the manager of the doughnut shop. Tell him or her that these days a strong selling point in many businesses is that they are "going green." In the case of the doughnut shop, it would cost them less and even gain them more customers if they would stop handing out bags to customers who are eating their doughnuts on the premises and tell them why. (A piece of waxed paper would suffice and create less waste.)

Readers, if you are interested in how long it takes the items we toss into our landfills to decompose, I found the following illuminating. Read on:

> Paper 2 to 5 months Orange peels 6 months Milk cartons 5 years Filter-tip cigarettes ... 10 to 12 years Plastic bags 10 to 20 years Leather shoes 24 to 40 years Plastic containers 50 to 80 years Disposable diapers 75 years Tin cans 100 years Aluminum cans 200 to 500 years Styrofoam Never

DEAR ABBY: I'm having a problem with my next door neighbors. We just purchased a wonderful historical home located in an awesome neighborhood. My problem is, after we moved in, we realized that these people are exhibitionists. They have no window coverings in their home, which has large windows on all sides. At night you can see all the way through to the other side.

Our home has no back door, so when we need to let our dog out, we must walk along the driveway. We refer to it as "walking the gauntlet." This couple eats their breakfast at a table next to the side window dressed only in their night clothes. At 7 a.m., I am in my robe. Should I wave or hang my head in shame?

I know I should have checked the neighbors out before we bought. I come from a rural area, but still, I had blinds. Flaunting my nightwear or my husband's is kind of personal. Please advise.

PUT OFF IN TEXAS

DEAR PUT OFF: There is nothing shameful or exhibitionistic about wearing one's pajamas to the breakfast table. If the sight of your neighbors' nightwear embarrasses you, plant a lovely, lush, fast-growing hedge between your driveway and their kitchen.

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

For everything you need to know about wedding planning, order "How to Have a Lovely Wedding." Send a business-sized, selfaddressed envelope, plus check or money order for \$6 (U.S. funds only) to: Dear Abby - Wedding Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included in the price.)

'Housewives' hunk Gale Harold returns to the set



Actor Gale Harold poses for a portrait on the set of television show "Desperate Housewives" in Los Angeles on Wednesday, April 15, 2009.

LOS ANGELES (AP)— Gale Harold is back on Wiste-

Six months after a serious motorcycle accident, the "Desperate Housewives" actor has returned to work. His character, Jackson, is primed to propose to Susan, played by Teri Hatcher.

The 39-year-old Harold landed in intensive care as a result of the crash last Oct.

14. On the set of the show Wednesday, he said the accident taught him that "you can play hard, but you may have to pay a price." But it's a price he says he's paid back in full.

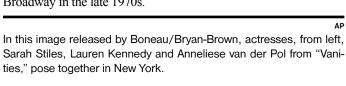
Harold's return episode is set to air May 3 on ABC. The actor is signed to the series through the end of this season but says he has yet to be asked to return for 2009-10.

Musical version of 'Vanities' set for off-Broadway

NEW YORK (AP)—"Vanities" has found a home off-Broadway. Second Stage Theatre says it will present the New York premiere of the musical which had been set for Broadway this season but then postponed because of the uncertain economic climate.

The show opens July 16 and will star Lauren Kennedy, Sarah Stiles and Anneliese van der Pol as three best friends who go from high school cheerleaders to adulthood. Preview performances begin June 30.

The musical features a book by Jack Heifner and a score by David Kirshenbaum. The director is Judith Ivey. "Vanities" is based on Heifner's play, which ran for more than 1,300 performances off-Broadway in the late 1970s.





FRIDAY, APRIL 17, 2009 **29** SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes



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22 Spud bud

27 Early hrs.

29 Neat and

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23 A handful DOWN

By Bryan Basset

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy

By Jim Davis





CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Vic-

toria Adams Beckham, 35; Jennifer Garner, 37;

Happy Birthday: Control your emotions and

you will win whatever battles you face this year. Your ingenuity and ability to approach matters

openly and with a different twist will grab the at-

tention of someone you helped in the past. Com-

passion, combined with a firm plan, will lead to

victory in all aspects of life. Your numbers are 5,

take advantage of your trusting, loyal attitude.

Keep things out in the open where everyone can

looking at the possibility of moving from one

career to another in order to secure your finan-

cial future. An experienced advisor can help you

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Be careful

what types of people you deal with and

the promises you make. Someone will

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Don't let

the little things bother you when the big

picture is what counts. You should be

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): You'll be

all over the place and, if you aren't care-

ful, will get little accomplished. You have

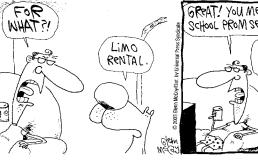
Liz Phair, 42; Olivia Hussey, 58

9 12 21 26 33 39

witness what is going on. 😂

make choices. **ODOOO**





GREAT! YOU MEAN IT'S OBEDIENCE SCHOOL PROM SPASON ALROADY ?! I ALSO BONGH? A PACKAGE AT A MOJAS & MINNAT

ffer AC

CROSSWC	DRD	By Eug	ene Sheffer
ACROSS 1 Pompous sort 4 Upper limit 7 Excavate 12 Wire	47 Actor McBride 48 Insecti- cide alternative 52 Annoy 53 Hunter in	3 Word on the street? 4 Birthday party must- have	24 Make up your mind 25 Encoun- tered 26 Prior to 28 West of
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15 Literary collection	55 Appomat- tox	side 7 Out of	link 31 —
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19 Double- — sword	neration	league? 10 Salt Lake	access 37 Nobel-
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1 With full

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LOTS

2 Egyptian

Solution time: 25 mins.

LOCH

39

Yesterday's answer 4-17

29 30

Mother member 11 Apiece 40 Drink eagerly 17 Require-42 With ment 21 Shrewish aloofness 43 Crowd? peninsula 23 Ignite 44 Increases, as prices

> 45 Lacking 46 Salver 48 Acknowledge applause

> > bender Geller 50 Martini ingredient 51 Last king of Albania

49 Spoon-

mistake or blunder. ��� CANCER (June 21-July 22): Romance, socializing and putting things in order personally and professionally should be your main focus. Winnings, gifts, rewards, re-

to have a game plan and a to-do list. Someone

will be waiting on the sidelines for you to make a

turns or a settlement you've been negotiating will have a positive influence on your life.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Talk about your plans and some of your colleagues will help you get the ball rolling. Your charismatic nature will build enthusiasm. Make sure you have tested your ideas and researched thoroughly before you get others involved in your scheme. OCO

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Stay calm and refuse to let things get blown out of proportion. Put your energy into passionate encounters, not acts of hostility. Making adjustments to your current living arrangements will give you greater ease and comfort. •••

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Socializing will lead to some interesting new acquaintances and could turn into a prosperous partnership. A commitment to someone you care for will help you engage in an interesting change before year's end.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Trust scorpio (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): Trust someone you love to get you through trying times. A promise made will not be kept and emotional matters that concern elders or an old friend will leave you feeling lost and revengeful. Remember, the sweetest revenge is

your own success. OO SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Instead of traveling, interact by phone or e-mail. Don't upset someone in a position of power or change your mind midstream and you

will fare much better in all you pursue. •••• CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): The sooner you take care of any pending personal matter, the

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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better off vou'll be. You cannot get ahead until you resolve whatever problem is standing in your way. Talks regarding

you can live with. AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Speak from the heart and you will get respect and the answers you need. Your intentions are good and, if you follow through with your long-term goals, you can make your dreams come true. Avoid talking yourself in or out of something due to fear or a lack of confidence.

property, home and family will bring results that

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Call upon people you have helped in the past and you will be granted favors. Don't let someone who doesn't believe in your dream put a damper on your plans. Listen to advice and incorporate any useful suggestions. Romance is looking good. OOOO

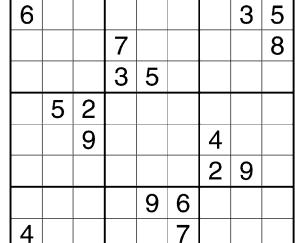
Birthday Baby: You are strong, steady and a little bit stubborn. You are passionate and loving and are a strong advocate of reform.

Eugenia's Web sites: astroadvice.com for fun, eugenialast.com for confidential consultations

Conceptis Sudoku

answers to today's crossword, call 1-900-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touchtone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

55



Difficulty Level ★★★★

8

3

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

By Dave Green

2

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer									
5	4	8	2	7	3	1	9	6	
9	6	7	1	5	4	8	3	2	
2	3	1	8	9	6	5	4	7	
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7	8	6	5	4	2	3	1	9	
ფ	5	4	6	1	9	2	7	8	
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Difficu	ty Lev	cl * *	*					4/16	

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WONDERWORD

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizon-LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD. The lef

	AL PACINO MOVIES Solution: 7 letters													
N	Α	М	0	W	Υ	Υ	(T)	F	E	L	Н	Ε	s	A
Α	С	Т	0	R	Ν	Т	R	(O)	S	S	Ε	С	Ν	Α
Μ	D	Υ	Α	1	Ν	S	0	M	\bigcirc	1	Α	Α	М	U
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Actor, Advocate, Author, Bank, Bergman, Best, Bits, Brasco, Burke, Burns, Coffee, Corleone, Day, Dick, Frank, Gigli, Glengarry, Godfather, Golden, Hall, Heat, Himself, Insider, Insomnia, John, Jonas, Lefty, Levine, Limos, Lion, Love, Lowell, Merchant, Milton, Montana, Park, Roma, Ross, Scarface, Scent, Seat, Sonny, Starkman, Text, Tony, Venice, Vincent, Woman

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30 FRIDAY, APRIL 17, 2009 SAIPAN TRIBUNE

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Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

Saturday Issue:

- Saipan Tribune: All ads placed Friday before 12 noon will come out Saturday issue and anything placed thereafter will be published on Monday issue.

CANCELLATION

Classified Ads

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

REFUNDS

Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

CHECK YOUR ADS

Saipan Tribune will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. Saipan Tribune reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when

ADVERTISING POLICY

All advertising in the Saipan Tribune are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, Saipan Tribune reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

PURE BRED

CALL 483-7231



JOB ANNOUNCEMENT

LSG SKY CHEFS is seeking for "Quality Assurance Clerk" to work for an airline catering company who instills optimal customer and catering services to its airline passengers and students in the Public School System. This position enforces rules and regulations with respect to safety, health and sanitation by the federal and local food safety requirements.

The qualification requirements calls for an Associate's degree in food sciences, health sciences or closely related field, and two years in food services dealing with quality assurance activities; or any equivalent combination of experience and training which provides the minimum knowledge, abilities and skills. Interested applicants may inquire with the Resident Manager at 234-8258.

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

EMPLOYEES' CREDIT UNION,	: NO.
Plaintiff,	:
-V-	:
MARIANO S. NAPUTI,	:
Defendant.	:

COMMONWEALTH GOVERNMENT

FIRST AMENDED NOTICE OF SALE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that natter on November 13, 2006, I will sell, at public auction, to the highest bidder, on the terms and conditions set forth hereinhelow all of the right, title, and interest of Defendant and to the following property: Lot No. 002 G 334, situated in Kagman II, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands, containing as area of 929 square meters, more or less, as more particularly described on Drawing/Cadastral Plat No. 002 G 08, the original of which was recorded May 14, 1990, as document No 90-1905, at the Commonwealth Recorder's

Date, Time, and Place of Sale. The sale will be held on Friday, May 15, 2009, at the hour of 1:30 p.m., at The Law Offices of Michael A. White, LLC, Joeten Center, isupe, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands The sale will be open to the general po

Terms and Conditions of Sale. The Terms and Conditions of Sale may be obtained from the undersigned, either prior to or at the sale. These terms and conditions shall govern the conduct of the sale

DATED, this 13th day of April, 2008:

/s/ MICHAEL A. WHITE, Auctioneer

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

CITY TRUST BANK	:	СГ АСТ
Plaintiff,	:	NO. 0
-V-	:	
DANIEL JOSEPH M. CABRERA and MAGDALENA S. CABRERA,	: : : :	
Defendante		

FIRST AMENDED NOTICE OF SALE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that. pursuant to an Order issued by the Court in this matter on September 19, 2008, I will sell, at public auction, to the highest bidder, on the terms and conditions set forth hereinbelow, all of the right, title, and interest of Defendant in and to the following property: (a) Lot No. 005 1 180, situated in Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands, as more particularly described on Drawing/Cadastral Plat No. 005 1 02, the original of which was recorded March 11, 1983, as Document No. 16707, at the Commonwealth Recorder's Office, Saipan; commonweath Recorder 5 Office, sapan, and (b) Tract No. 225840-1-1, located in Chalan Kanoa, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands, as more particularly described on DLS Check No. 2119/92, deeded to Daniel Muna Cabrera on August 24, 1998, and recorded as File No. 99-2096 on September 3, 1999.

File No. 99-2096 on September 3, 1999.

Date, Time, and Place of Sale. The sale will be held on Friday, May 15, 2009, at the hour of 1:30 p.m., at The Law Offices of Michael A. White, LLC, Joeten Center, Susupe, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands. The sale will be open to the general public.

Terms and Conditions of Sale The Terms and Conditions of Sale may be obtained from the undersigned, either prior to or at the sale. These terms and conditions

or at the sale. These terms and conditions shall govern the conduct of the sale.

DATED, this 13th day of April, 2008:

/s/ MICHAEL A. WHITE. Auctioneer

FOR SALE

Bud's Bar for Sale: You must see to appreciate the bargain. Bud's Bar is a fully loaded bar, a turn key operation, ready to go. All inclusive, operation include. Call Leslie 233-1113 after 5:00pm will negotiate

FOR RENT - RESIDENTIAL

Apartment for Rent: 1br \$130.00, 2br \$210.00. 3 br \$250.00. Contact no. 288-0728. Mr Yoon Won Suck



FOR IMMEDIATE HIRE ACCOUNTANT

Submit resume to INTERKAM TRAVEL AGENCY or call Tel. Nos. 235-8888/5554/5555

WHATZIT Solution: Vertical takeoff

FOR RENT - RESIDENTIAL

Fina Sisu Apt., 2-BR, FF, AC, BU Genset/24-hr water, security, laundry room, free Wi-Fi & ample parking. Right behind NMC campus. MIHA applicants accepted. Special rates for NMC faculty/ students. Call 235-6527/8 or 285-1317 for info.

Lower Navy Hill Apts. Newly renovated Bldg. 3BR & 2BT. Rooms w/ A/C & fully furnished. Backup generator. Free Wi-Fi. EPA Solar Water Heater, Laundry area, Nightime security. 235-6527/28 or 285-1317.

Oceanview & Sunsetview Terraces. Luxury 2BR & 1BT Apts w/private balcony & beautiful view. Rooms w/ A/C & Fully Furnished. Backup Generator. Free Wi-Fi. Laundry Area. Nightime security. 235-6527/28 or 285-1317.



Find the familiar phrase, saying or name in this arrangement of letters.



Find today's solution in this section

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IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

CITY TRUST BAN	K, : CIVII ACTIO
Plainti	310 00 0
-v-	:
JOSEPH ALDAN ARRIOLA,	:
Defend	lant.

FIRST AMENDED NOTICE OF SALE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that oursuant to an Order issued by the Court in this matter on October 31, 2008, I will sell, at auction, to the highest bidder, on th terms and conditions set forth hereinbelow, all of the right, title, and interest of Defendant in and to the following property: Lot No. 034 L 129, situated in Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands, containing an area of 257 square meters, more or less, as more particularly described in the Subdivision of Lot 034 L 63, on DLS Check No. 034 L 21 recorded in the Commonwealth Recorder's Office at File No 97-1299; and Lot 034 L 130, situated in Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands, containing an area of 257 square meters, more or less, as more particularly described in the Subdivision of Lot 034 L 63, on DLS Check No. 034 L 21 recorded in the Commonwealth Recorder Office at File No. 97-1299.

Date, Time, and Place of Sale. The sale will be held on Friday, May 15, 2009, at the hour of 1:30 p.m., at The Law Offices of Michael A. White, LLC, Joeten Center, Susupe, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands. The sale will be open to the general public.

Terms and Conditions of Sale. The

Terms and Conditions of Sale may be obtained from the undersigned, either prior to or at the sale. These terms and condition shall govern the conduct of the sale.

DATED, this 13th day of April, 2008:

/s/ MICHAEL A. WHITE, Auctionee

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

NORTHERN MARIAN	AISLANDS
CITY TRUST BANK, fka MARIANAS BANK LTD.,	: CIVIL : ACTION NO. 97-1054
Plaintiff,	:
,	
-v-	:
JUAN R. SABLAN and	:
ANGELINE F. SABLAN,	:
D.C. I.	
Defendants.	•

FIRST AMENDED NOTICE OF SALE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that. matter on November 10, 2008, I will sell, at public auction, to the highest bidder, on the erms and conditions set forth hereinbelow, all of the right, title, and interest of Defendant in and to the following property: Real property designated as Lot E.A. 839 NEW-6-3 containing an area of 1,329 square meters, nore or less, as more particularly described or Drawing/Cadastral Plat No. E.A. 839 NEW

Date, Time, and Place of Sale. The sale will be held on Friday, May 15, 2009, at the hour of 1:30 p.m., at The Law Offices of Michael A. White, LLC, Joeten Center, Susupe, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands. The sale will be open to the general public.

Terms and Conditions of Sale. The Terms and Conditions of Sale may be obtained from the undersigned, either prior to or at the sale. These terms and conditions shall govern the conduct of the sale.

DATED, this 13th day of April, 2008:

/s/ MICHAEL A. WHITE, Auctioned



Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION

Tel. (670) 234-6866, 234-9447, 234-7689, 234-7670 • Fax. (670) 234-9021 Email: nmhc@nmhc.gov.mp • Website: http://www.nmhc.gov.mp



>@ NMHC @

NOTICE OF AUCTION

IN THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

The Northern Marianas Housing Corporation, hereinafter referred to as NMHC, as auctioneer and seller, hereby gives notice that all of the rights, title, and interests of the following described real property situated in Garapan, Saipan, CNMI will be sold at an auction:

Lot No. 003 D 16 (Formerly Block 1 Lot 16), as shown on the Division of Lands and Surveys Official Cadastral Plat Number 003 D 00 dated February 19, 1971, the original of which was registered with the Land Registry on the 1st day of March, 1971, as Document No. 869, and containing an area of 1,022 square meters, more or less, together with the improvements and fixtures located thereon and therein nd the appurtenances and all the rights, title, and interest of, in, and to the land lying in all streets, highways, and rights of ways abutting on or appurtenant to said premises.

Minimum Bid: The minimum bid for the property mentioned above in this notice shall be \$87,000.00.

The auction will be open to the general public and will be held at NMHC's conference room, Garapan, Saipan, at 10:00 a.m. on **Friday**, **May 8**, **2009**, subject to the following announced terms and conditions:

Reserve: The auction sale shall be held with reserve.
Rights and Duties of Auctioneer: Consistent with the custom and usage and applicable laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands governing auction sales with reserve, auctioneer and seller shall have the following rights and duties in conducting the auction sale:

a. To withdraw the property listed for sale in this announcement before sale or before a bid for such property in accepted. such property is accepted.

To adjourn the sale without notice at any time before any specific property is sold, without incurring any liability whatsoever thereby; and To reject any and all bids.

Bids: Tentative bids may be submitted in advance for the property listed in this notice. Such bids shall not be binding, except that the highest of such bids will automatically be considered the opening bid for the item. Bids may be entered in person, in writing, or by telephone to Mr. Joshua T. Sasamoto, Corporate Director, NMHC, P.O. Box 500514, Saipan, MP 96950; Telephone: 234-6866; Facsimile: 234-9021; or to Mr. Vicente T. Salas, Esq., P.O. Box 501309, Saipan, MP 96950; Telephone: 234-7455; Facsimile: 234-7256.

Deposit: Payment: A deposit of ten percent (10%) of the purchase price must be paid on the day of the auction sale. The remaining balance will be due within ten (10) calendar days of the auction sale.

auction sale. All payments must be made by cash, cashier's check, or credit card. Failure to make payment of the remaining balance within ten (10) calendar days will result in forfeiture by the buyer of the ten percent (10%) deposit, and any and all of the buyer's rights, title, and interest in any of the aforementioned property will revert to NMHC.

Change of Terms: Auctioneer and NMHC reserve the right to change any of the terms of sender and of the payment of sale by appropriate written and before the auction.

conduct and enforcement of sale by announcement, written or oral, made before the auction sale or at the commencement thereof, and such change or changes, by virtue of this clause, shall be binding on any buyer by constructive notice.

Inspection and No Warranty: Bidders are cautioned to inspect the title and property; contact NMHC for scheduled viewing and inspection times. The interests of the property are being sold "AS IS" and without warranty. Failure to inspect the real property will not constitute a ground for any claim, adjustment or rescission by any buyer.

Dated this 2nd day of April, 2009.

/s/ JOSHUA T. SASAMOTO, Corporate Director

NMHC is an equal employment and fair housing public agency





11TH CNMI STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION **BOARD MEETING**



WEDNESDAY, APRIL 22, 2009, 1:30 p.m. Pacific Islands Club Napu Room, SAIPAN

Preliminary

- a. Call to Order
- b. Roll Call
- c. Adoption of Agenda
- d. Adoption of Minutes i. 02-25-2009 SBOE Meeting

Public Comments

III. Reports

- a. Chair
- b. Board Committees
- i. CIA
- ii. CIP iii. FPA
 - 1. Meeting of 3-4-09
 - 2. Meeting of 3-23-09 3. Meeting of 4-7-09
- 4. Meeting of 4-17-09
- iv. LIA
- 1. HR 1324 to Amend Child Nutrition Act of 1966
 - v. School Reform
- vi. Special Education & Early Childhood vii. Private Schools & Non-Public School
- Representative
- viii. Student Representative
- c. Commissioner of Education
- i. Head Start Monthly Report
- ii. Financial Reports Local & Federal 1. FY 2009 Adjusted Spending Plan per PL 16-32
- iii. Other Matters
 - 1. ACT Meeting
 - 2. Additional time for ELL (PLNE) test takers

 - 3. Governor's letter to President re ARRA
 - 4. Tinian High School Transformer Update
 - 5. Retirement Issues

IV. Old Business

a. Adoption of Proposed Rules and Regulations re Amendments to HQC published in the 2-25-09 Commonwealth Register

b. Adoption of Proposed Rules and Regulations re Special Education Hard to Fill Pay Differential published in the 2-25-09 Commonwealth Register

New Business

- a. CNMI-wide Statewide Communications Interoperability Plan (SCIP)
- b. Ratification of ARRA SFSF Grant Application (PSS Stimulus)
- c. Approval of \$20M CIP Plan for ARRA
- Tax Credit Bond d. Approval of revised Standards and
- Benchmarks
- e. Approval of 2010 Head Start Grant Application
- f. Annual Report for 2008 g. Ratification of LIA Comments re HR 1324 to Amend Child Nutrition Act of 1966
- h. Approval of Building Lease for Additional Space on 2nd Floor (Retirement)
- i. Setting of Goals and Objectives for 2009-2010
- j. System-wide Evaluation (BOE, PSS, COE)

VI. Executive Session

- a. Legal Updates
- b. Personnel
- c. Other Matters

VII. Miscellaneous Matters

- a. Setting of BOE Committee meeting times
- b. Setting of BOE regular and special meeting times
- c. Trip Report 20th Annual Service Learning
- d. Trip Report Collaborate for Success Action Clinic re US Apprenticeship Program
- e. Trip Report NSBA Conference, San Diego

VIII. Discussion of Agenda for Next Board Meeting

IX. Adjournment

 3 Pursuant to 1 CMC § 9912, the Board may vote to meet in executive session at any time



Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands **State Board of Education**

Public School System

P. O. Box 501370, Saipan, MP 96950 **REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL**



RFP 09-013 The CNMI Public School System is soliciting competitive scaled proposals for the Supply of Diesel, Unleaded Gasoline, Lubricating Oil, and Fluids for its **School Bus and Vehicle Fleets on Tinian.** Detailed information on the scope of work is available at the PSS Procurement & Supply Office located on the 3rd

All proposals shall be in a sealed envelope face marked "RFP 09-013" containing one (1) original and three (3) copies and shall be submitted to the PSS Procurement and Supply Office no later than April 22, 2009 at 2:00 p.m. Responsibility Determination documents shall be placed in a separate envelope marked "RFP 09-013, CONFIDENTIAL - Responsibility Determination" (one (1)-original and three (3) copies). Any proposal after the aforementioned date and time will not be accepted under any circumstance.

floor of the NMI Retirement Fund Building, Capitol Hill, Saipan, MP 96950.

Technical questions shall be in writing and addressed to Ms. Rita B. Dela Cruz, Acting Procurement & Supply Officer, via fax # (670) 664-3791. Alternatively, questions may be e-mailed to the following address: <u>delacruzr@pss.cnmi.mp.</u>

Contractors are required to submit with their proposal, a copy of their valid **CNMI Business License.**

The Public School System reserves the right to award single or multiple awards or to reject any or all proposals, in whole or in part, and others, if to do so is in the best interest of the Public Shool System.

All proposals shall become the property of the Public School System.

/S/ Rita A. Sablan, Ed.D. **Commissioner of Education** /S/ Rita B. Dela Cruz **PSS Acting, P&S Officer**

Spurs clinch Southwest Division with OT win



SAN ANTONIO (AP)—Michael Finley hit a buzzer-beater, Tim Duncan was nearly unstoppable and the Spurs claimed another division title.

The playoffs are here, and things are looking familiar in San Antonio.

Down by five with 48.7 seconds left, the Spurs clawed to an thrilling comeback against New Orleans that began with Finley sinking a 3-pointer as time expired in the fourth quarter and Duncan dominating in overtime to stun the fading Hornets in a 105-98 victory Wednesday night.

Coupled with a Houston loss to Dallas, the Spurs clinched the No. 3 seed in the Western Conference and will play the Mavericks in the first round of the playoffs. The Hornets fell to the seventh seed after letting this one slip away.

"Just enough time," Finley said of releasing his 3-pointer that forced overtime. "Everything lined up for us."

Did it ever.

Even with a win, the Spurs weren't assured of starting the playoffs at home. But San Antonio didn't have to sweat the NBA scoreboard after the game, since the Rockets fell in Dallas before the Spurs and Hornets finished regulation.

The Spurs haven't opened the playoffs on the road since Duncan was a rookie in 1998. Back then, David Robinson was their leading scorer, they played in the Alamodome, and Duncan's first post-season lasted just four games when they were ousted by Phoenix.

After this one, the Spurs can largely thank Duncan for keeping the streak going.

Taking over the game in overtime, Duncan scored six of his 20 points in the extra period and finished with 19 rebounds. His brilliant final five minutes included six rebounds, two assists and stopping Chris Paul with a block.

The jewel came on a turnaround, one-handed baseline jumper with 41.1 seconds left that pushed the lead to seven. David West scored 34 points for the Hornets, but fumed after Duncan sank that one.

"It's great that we have home court," Duncan said. "It's a great way to end the season."

Mavericks 95, Rockets 84

At Dallas, Jason Kidd notched a tripledouble and Jason Terry was superb in the fourth quarter, powering Dallas to a victory that started the dominoes tumbling in the Western Conference playoff chase.

Dallas will be the No. 6 seed and play the Spurs in the playoffs. The Rockets will be fifth and open at Portland.

Houston blew a 14-point lead and ended a five-game winning streak.

Kidd had 11 points, 12 assists and 10 rebounds. Terry scored 14 of his 23 points in the fourth quarter.

Yao Ming scored 23 points—none in the fourth quarter for Houston.

76ers 111, Cavaliers 110, OT

At Cleveland, LeBron James watched as the Cleveland Cavaliers couldn't quite make history.

With their superstar, All-Star guard Mo Williams and other regulars resting for the playoffs, Cleveland lost for just the second time on their home floor this season.

That left the Cavs at 39 home wins—one shy of tying the 1985-86 Boston Celtics' all-time home record of 40-1.

Andre Miller scored 30 points and Andre Iguodala 24 for the Sixers, who snapped a six-game losing streak. Philadelphia earned the No. 6 spot in the East-



San Antonio Spurs guard Michael Finley (4) reacts after he made a basket at the buzzer as New Orleans Hornets forward David West, right, looks on at the end of the fourth quarter of their NBA basketball game in San Antonio, Wednesday, April 15, 2009.

ern Conference playoffs, where it will meet the Orlando Magic.

Daniel Gibson scored 28 for the Cavaliers, the No. 1 overall seed. Cleveland will play Detroit in the first round of the playoffs.

Raptors 109, Bulls 98

At Chicago, Shawn Marion scored a seasonhigh 34 points, Chris Bosh set one with 19 rebounds while scoring 21, and Toronto ended Chicago's five-game winning streak.

The Bulls wound up with the seventh seed in the Eastern Conference and a first-round matchup with defending champion Boston.

Derrick Rose had a solid game, finishing with 20 points and 11 assists,

Celtics 115, Wizards 107

At Boston, Eddie House sank five 3-pointers in the fourth quarter and Boston beat Washington without its three top players.

Caron Butler scored a season-high 39 points but couldn't keep the Wizards from matching their worst record for an 82-game season, 19-63, last in the Eastern Conference

House had 20 points and set a single-season club record with a 44.4 percentage on 3-pointers.

Paul Pierce and Ray Allen rested and Kevin Garnett missed his 22nd game in 26 with a sprained right knee but could be ready for the playoff opener.

Magic 98, Bobcats 73

At Orlando, Fla., Tony Battie had 21 points, Mickael Pietrus scored 19, and Orlando tuned up for the playoffs with a victory.

Dwight Howard had 10 points and 12 rebounds in limited minutes to help Orlando snap its season-longest threegame losing streak without starting forwards Hedo Turkoglu and Rashard Lewis. The third-seeded Magic will face Philadelphia in the first round of the playoffs.

Raymond Felton had 13 points, and

Nazr Mohammed added 12 for the Bobcats (35-47), who finished with the best record in franchise history.

Heat 102, Pistons 96

At Miami, Chris Quinn made a 3-pointer late in overtime to give Miami the lead and Dwyane Wade wrapped the NBA scoring title while sitting out of Miami's victors.

title while sitting out of Miami's victory. Quinn scored a career-best 26 points.

Michael Beasley scored 12 of his 22 points in the first quarter for Miami, but left midway through the third quarter after getting hit near the right eye by the Pistons' Amir Johnson and did not return.

Kwame Brown finished with 17 points and 13 rebounds for Detroit.

No. 5 Miami will start the playoffs at No. 4 Atlanta.

Grizzlies 98, Hawks 90

At Memphis, Tenn., O.J. Mayo scored 26 points and Rudy Gay added 20 to lead the Memphis to a against mostly the Hawks' subs.

Marc Gasol finished with 19 points for Memphis, which snapped a two-game losing streak. Hakim Warrick added 15 points, and Mike Conley finished with 12 points and seven assists.

Flip Murray led the Hawks with 29 points, including 20 in the second half to keep Atlanta close. Maurice Evans chipped in 21 points.

Starters Joe Johnson, Mike Bibby, Al Horford and Marvin Williams sat out for the Hawks, who will play the Heat in the first round of the playoffs.

Pacers 115, Bucks 108

At Indianapolis, Danny Granger scored 35 points, and Indiana overcame a 17-point deficit in the fourth quarter.

Granger scored 16 points in the fourth quarter in his 23rd 30-point game of the season. He also had nine rebounds, four assists and three blocks.

Richard Jefferson led the Bucks with 31 points.

Kings 97, Timberwolves 90

At Minneapolis, Ike Diogu had 28 points and 13 rebounds to help Sacramento finish a sorry season with a victory.

Diogu topped 20 points in two straight games for the first time in his career and Andres Nocioni scored 17 points for the Kings (17-65), who finished with the NBA's worst record.

Craig Smith scored 18 points in 18 minutes for the Wolves. Minnesota (24-58) finished with 13 victories on the road and only 11 at home, the only team in the league with a better record on the road.

Knicks 102, Nets 73

At New York, David Lee had 12 points and 12 rebounds for his NBA-best 65th doubledouble, and the Knicks won the final progame in the New York area this season.

Wilson Chandler scored 16 points for the Knicks, who finished coach Mike D'Antoni's first season with a 32-50 record.

New York completed its fifth straight season without a playoff appearance. The Knicks will enter next season tied with Minnesota for the longest playoff drought.

Chris Douglas-Roberts scored 18 for the Nets, who sat out top players Devin Harris (sore left shoulder) and Vince Carter (sprained right big toe).

Trail Blazers 104, Nuggets 76

At Portland, Ore., Travis Outlaw scored 21 points for the Trail Blazers as they clinched home-court advantage in the first round of the playoffs. Portland, which hasn't been to the postseason since 2002-03, will face the Rockets as the No. 4 seed in the Western Conference.

The Nuggets, who clinched the second seed in the Western Conference, will play New Orleans.

Chauncey Billups had 13 points for the Nuggets, who finished the regular season 54-28 and tied the franchise record for wins, set in 1987-88.

Portland, which led by as many as 31 points, has won six straight and also finished 54-28 in the Northwest Division.

Suns 117, Warriors 113

At Phoenix, Grant Hill completed his most durable pro season by scoring 27 points and grabbing 10 rebounds for the Suns. Hill, plagued by injuries throughout his 15 NBA seasons, appeared in all 82 games for the first time in his career. His 27 points matched his season high.

Leandro Barbosa added 18 points for the Suns, who failed to make the playoffs for the first time since 2004.

Anthony Morrow wrapped up his strong rookie season with 33 points and 12 rebounds for the Warriors, who had eight players in uniform and used only seven. C.J. Watson had 20 points and 12 assists.

Thunder 126, Clippers 85

At Los Angeles, Kevin Durant had 26 points and Jeff Green added 19 as the Thunder dismantled the Clippers. Oklahoma led by as many as 33 in the third quarter against the Clippers, who were booed continuously throughout.

The win came after the Thunder announced interim coach Scott Brooks as the team's head coach heading into next season.

Los Angeles stumbled to the finish line and did so without coach Mike Dunleavy, who was ejected in the third after arguing a call with an official.

Eric Gordon had 22 points to lead the Clippers, who lost nine of their last 10.

Wade wins scoring title on bench

Dwyane Wade wrapped up his first NBA scoring title on the bench, sitting out the Miami Heat's last game on the final night of the regular season.

His closest competitor, LeBron James, also took Wednesday off.

Wade finished the regular season with a 30.2 average to James' 28.4. Both stars sat out their team's regular-season finales to rest up for the playoffs, which start this weekend.

Miami, the No. 5 seed, will begin the postseason at Atlanta.

Cleveland is the top seed in the Eastern Conference and will play Detroit in the first round of the playoffs.

Lakers All-Star Kobe Bryant was third in the scoring race at 26.8 points per game.

Dwight Howard of the Magic was the NBA's leading rebounder at 13.9 per game. Howard and the Southeast Division champion Magic are the No. 3 seed in the East and will face the Philadelphia 76ers in the first round of the playoffs.

The 76ers locked up the No. 6 seed by beating Cleveland 111-110 in overtime on the final night, while the Bulls were losing at home 109-98 to the Toronto Raptors.

The Bulls will face the second-seeded, defending champion Boston Celtics in the firstround of the playoffs.

Chris Paul of the Hornets led the league in assists at 11.0.

All but one of the Western Conference playoff matchups were set on the final night.

The San Antonio Spurs won the Southwest Division and earned the No. 3 seed with a 105-98 overtime victory against Paul and the Hornets. The loss dropped the Hornets into the No. 7 seed and a first-round match-up against Northwest Division champion Denver. The Nuggets had already locked up the division when they took the floor against Portland, which won 104-76.

The Trail Blazers needed a win to earn the fourth seed and home-court advantage in a first-round series against Houston.

Houston had a chance to be seeded as high as second in the West, but lost 95-84 to the Dallas Mavericks and fell all the way to No. 5 when Portland won.

The sixth-seeded Mavericks will play the Spurs in the first round.

The top-seeded Lakers meet No. 8 Utah in the other Western Conference series. (AP)

Wakefield throws 4-hitter as Red Sox top A's



(AP)—

Tim Wakefield took a no-hitter into the eighth inning on a day when the Red Sox desperately needed a strong start from their 42-year-old knuckleballer and finished with a four-hitter Wednesday in Boston's 8-2 victory over the Oakland Athletics.

Wakefield (1-1) got within five outs of the first no-hitter of his 17-season major league career, nearly becoming the second-oldest pitcher to accomplish the feat after Nolan Ryan.

Kurt Suzuki broke it up with a one-out single to left for the A's, and Landon Powell had an RBI single later in the inning. Wakefield gave up Matt Holliday's run-scoring double in the ninth, but escaped one last jam before getting hugs and congratulations from each of his teammates.

Brett Anderson (0-2), Oakland's 21-year-old rookie lefthander, looked sharp in just his second major league appearance, allowing just five hits and two walks through seven innings.

Mariners 11, Angels 3

At Seattle, Ken Griffey Jr. hit career home run No. 613 and his 400th as a Mariner in his second home game of his return season in Seattle.

Ichiro Suzuki had two hits in his season debut following

O A K - his first career stint on the dis-LAND, abled list, including his first Calif. grand slam in six years during a seven-run seventh inning, to tie Isao Harimoto's Japanese record with hit No. 3,085.

Blue Jays 12, Twins 2

At Minneapolis, Aaron Hill went 4-for-5 with one of Toronto's four home runs in four innings against Minnesota starter Scott Baker, and the Blue Jays kept up their torrid hitting.

Hill and Scott Rolen hit tworun shots against Baker, who came off the disabled list to make a forgettable first start of the season. Vernon Wells and Michael Barrett also went deep, sending Baker to an early exit.

Indians 5, Royals 4

At Kansas City, Mo., Travis Hafner's second double keyed a three-run seventh inning, and the Cleveland Indians picked up their first road win of the year while avoiding a three-game sweep with a 5-4 victory over the Kansas City Royals on Wednesday.

Jensen Lewis (1-0) issued three straight walks in the bottom of the seventh but still got the victory in relief of Aaron Laffey. Kyle Farnsworth (0-2) gave up three runs while getting only one out in relief for the Royals.

Yankees 4, Rays 3

At St. Petersburg, Fla., the roadweary New York Yankees headed to their new home on a high note.

Andy Pettitte pitched into the eighth inning, Robinson Cano hit a two-run homer and Derek Jeter singled in the go-ahead run in the ninth to lead the Yankees over the Tampa Bay Rays 4-3 Wednesday.

Tigers 9, White Sox 0

At Detroit, Armando Galarraga threw 6 1-3 scoreless innings and Placido Polanco drove in three runs Wednesday.

Galarraga (2-0) gave up four hits and two walks while striking out five. He left to a standing ovation after walking Paul Konerko with one out in the seventh. Jose Contreras (0-2) yielded five runs-three earned-on five hits in 5 2-3 innings

Rangers 19, Orioles 6

At Arlington, Texas, Ian Kinsler went 6-for-6 while hitting for the cycle as the Rangers beat the Orioles 19-6 Wednesday night to snap a five-game losing streak.

Kinsler became the fourth player in Rangers history with a cycle, reaching the feat with a triple in the sixth inning. With his RBI double in the eighth, he became only the second Texas player with a six-hit game and then scored his fifth run, matching another team record.

Cardinals 12, **Diamondbacks 7**

At Phoenix, Ryan Ludwick homered and drove in three runs and the St. Louis Cardinals defeated the Arizona Diamondbacks.

Ludwick is batting .407 and has hit in all seven games he's played this season. He singled home a run in the third inning and added a two-run homer in the sixth.

Rockies 5, Cubs 2

At Chicago, Jason Marquis hit a two-run single off Rich Harden to put Colorado ahead against his former team.

Marquis (2-0), who spent the previous two years with the Cubs, was booed during introductions before Monday's home opener and again several times Wednesday. He hit a bases-loaded single in the second and allowed one run and five hits in seven innings.

Marlins 10, Braves 4

At Atlanta, Dan Uggla drove in three runs for the second straight game and the Florida Marlins beat the Atlanta Braves 10-4 on Wednesday night.

At 7-1, Florida has its best start since opening 1997 with eight wins in the first nine games.

The Marlins snapped a 4-4 tie in the seventh on Peter Moylan's bases-loaded walk to pinch-hitter Russ Gload. Moylan (0-1) gave up a leadoff single to Jorge Cantu, who scored the go-ahead run on Gload's walk.

Mets 7, Padres 2

At New York, Oliver Perez rebounded from a rough season de-

Reserved Parking in Rear

but and the New York Mets earned their first victory at Citi Field.

Carlos Delgado homered and Perez pitched six smooth innings to help New York end San Diego's five-game winning streak. The Padres spoiled Monday night's opener at the \$800 million ballpark with a 6-5 victory over the mistake-prone Mets.

Astros 4, Pirates 1

A Pittsburgh, Mike Hampton pitched six shutout innings and the Houston Astros snapped a five-game losing streak.

Hampton (1-1) allowed four singles, walked one and struck out eight. He improved to 11-3 in his career against Pittsburgh and has won seven consecutive starts against the Pirates dating back to 2000.

Brewers 9, Reds 3

At Milwaukee, the Milwaukee Brewers' offense finally woke up, Mike Cameron hit a pair of home runs to spoil the pitching debut of Micah Owings (0-1) for the Cincinnati Reds and the Brewers avoided a series sweep.

Milwaukee broke a 3-all tie with five runs in the sixth inning, getting an RBI double by Bill Hall, a two-run double by Jason Kendall and two-run homer by Rickie Weeks to take an 8-3 lead.

Dodgers 5, Giants 4

At Los Angeles, James Loney drew his second bases-loaded

Behind Johndel's Supermarket

walk with one out in the ninth inning to give the Dodgers a victory over the Giants.

Singles by Orlando Hudson and Manny Ramirez gave the Dodgers runners at the corners with none out against reliever Bob Howry (0-1). Andre Ethier was intentionally walked, and Brian Wilson got Russell Martin to ground into a force at the plate with the infield in. But he lost Loney on a 3-2 pitch.

Jonathan Broxton (1-0) pitched a perfect ninth.

Jones-Drew, **Jaguars** agree to 4-year extension

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. (AP)— Running back Maurice Jones-Drew and the Jacksonville Jaguars agreed to terms Wednesday on a four-year contract extension.

Jones-Drew, a second-round draft pick out of UCLA in 2006, was expected to sign the new deal before an afternoon news conference.

Financial details of the extension were not immediately available, but Jones-Drew said earlier this year that his agent planned to use Steven Jackson's six-year, \$49.3 million deal with St. Louis as a baseline for negotiations.

Jaguars owner Wayne Weaver made it clear in January that he believed Jones-Drew was capable of being an every-down back and wanted to do whatever he could to keep the 5-foot-7, 208-pound dynamo around for the foreseeable future.

Next to Subway



OBLIGATIONS!

Rangers get back at Rock Steady, 7-4

By NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.



Ford Rangers got back at defend-

ing champion Rock Steady, 7-4, in a tension-filled game that opened the second round of the 2009 Budweiser Saipan Major League Wednesday night at the Francisco "Tan Ko' Palacios Ballfield.

The Rangers rallied from a 3-4 deficit with a run in the bottom of the sixth and three runs in the bottom of the seventh to

featuring up-to-date information

on the XTERRA Saipan World

Championship, Mike Vine, win-

ner of the first XTERRA Saipan

Championship will return to

Saipan to compete. Current USA

Champion and seven-time NOR-

BA winner Shonny Vanlanding-

ham will also be competing on

Of course, Saipan's top ath-

lete Mieko Carey will be com-

peting. Carey competed in the

XTERRA World Champion-

ships in Maui, Hawaii, and won

third place in her age division.

Other competitors include Eli

Torgeson who also participated

in the World Championships in

a slot he won at the XTERRA

"I'm excited to be compete with

Saipan Championship.

Saipan for the first time.

TINIAN

From Page 36

avenge their loss to Rock Steady in the two teams' first encounter earlier this season.

After a string of fielding errors by Rock Steady, designated hitter J.J. Laniyo stole home plate and the Rangers tied the game at 4-4 in the bottom of the sixth.

Then in the bottom of the seventh, Roy Celis hit a double followed by Shane Yamada's single.

Celis gave the go-ahead run on a passed ball, while Pete Tomokane walked to first base.

Dave Camacho hit a two RBI single that drove home Yamada and Tomokane and capped the Rangers' sixth straight win.

so many fine athletes," Manglona

said. "It's a bigger challenge for

me. But I am going to be a threat,

a competitor, an athlete, too," he

XTERRA is considered the

leading form of off-road triath-

lon, and the XTERRA Saipan

Championship will feature a

1.5-kilometer swim, 20-km

bike a bike on coral roads and

single-track, and 12-km trail run

The event will serve as a qual-

ifier for the Nissan XTERRA

World Championship held in

Maui, Hawaii on Oct. 25, 2009.

Forty-one slots will be offered

to top age group finishers at the

Asked how he prepared him-

self for the event, Manglona said,

"I set my mind and body to en-

dure a more complex challenge."

His workouts consists of hour-

long swims at Tachogna Beach

Saipan event.

through jungle and caves.

said with a smile.

Starting pitcher Kelvin Kapileo allowed five hits and three walks, two runs, and struck out only one batter after four innings.

Reliever Franco Flores retired the first six batters then gave up only two hits after that. He also allowed one run, hit by a pitch, and struck out two.

Rock Steady defeated the Rangers, 6-5, at the start of the first round last Feb. 20.

It was the first win for the Rangers against Rock Steady since the finals last year and they are now a win ahead in the team standings.

The Rangers are on top

followed by either a run with both

road and ragged trail routes, or a

bike ride to the northern part of

Tinian where the WWII atomic

Manglona's training is usu-

ally a solitary endeavor. Most

of the island residents pass by

him on his bike or on his run, or

they spy him on the beach dur-

ing their barbecues, a look of

friendly curiosity on their faces.

of the time, but I don't think of

myself as training alone. I set

my mind to think I'm working

against other competitors. But I

believe the biggest competitor is

yourself; you always have to try

to beat yourself," said Manglona.

as the "best," Manglona with-

out hesitation simply said, "No."

He described himself not as the

best, but as "competitive," "moti-

vated," "determined," and, with a

Asked if he thought himself

"I know I work alone most

bomb pits are located.

of the heap with a 6-1 winloss mark.

The San Roque D-9ers are second at 5-1, while Rock Steady was relegated to third place at 5-2.

The D-9ers are the only other team that defeated the defending champions so far this year, but they lost to the Rangers, 13-0.

The D-9ers' last win was against Korean Phoenix, 19-1.

The Young Guns created a three-way tie from fourth to sixth after winning their last two assignments of the first round.

They beat the Tigers, 7-1, and Korean Phoenix, 10-8.

While most CNMI athletes in the event hail from Saipan, Manglona is the lone athlete training on Tinian, but he doesn't mind. "Tinian has tough terrains here, and I can train in almost the same conditions as XTERRA on Saipan—trails, biking on rugged terrain, heat and wind, the water."

"Sometimes I don't think I am

"I want more people from Ti-

laugh, as an "adrenaline junkie."

He added with a smile, going to make it."

nian to get involved in triathlons or marathons or XTERRA." said Manglona. "It doesn't matter what your environment is, because it all falls on you. You've got yourself to support your own goals and dreams.' For Manglona, his dream is to win a qualifying spot to Maui and compete in the XTERRA World Championship. (PR)

DOUBLES

From Page 36

In the girls' 18-and-under division, Jodel Fernandez is pairing with Jean Bracken, Ilia Corella is teaming up with Amy Arenovski, Melody Johnson is joining forces with Dina Jones, and Thea Minor is partnering with sister Theecel.

Siblings Rafael and Angelo Jones have Nathan Nutting and Clay McCullough-Stearns as their partners, respectively. Nathan's brother Andy will play with Daniel Park, while Christian Miller will team up with Daniel Camacho.

In the girls' 12-and-under division, the pairings are Ga-

brielle Race and Neghar Rastguiy, Adele Hudkins and Alina Ishikawa, Emily Jones and Tammy Ackerman, and Mikayla Lopez, and Julia Ishikawa.

Championship games in the four age groups will be played this Sunday.

Next weekend, Northern Mariana Islands Federation will hold the singles competition in the CNMI championships.

The singles tournament offers 1.5 times the regular ranking points, which will be crucial in determining players who will represent the Commonwealth to the boys and girls' 18-and-under and 14-and-under competitions in the North Pacific Qualifying Tournament in Guam in June.

In the boys' 18-and-under

division, Woo Suk Chang leads 14 other players with his 2,250 rankings points. Tinian's Benjie Decena has earned 2,000 for second place, and is followed by Sung Hoon Ham (1,200), James Camacho (1000), Andy Nutting (850), Joseph Jang (650), Calvin Yang (500), Russell Buenaventura (500), Bradley Brostom (400), Min Seok Kim (300), Ji Hoon Ham (250), Sung Jin Kim (200), Min Suk Kim (200), and R.J. Aquino (150).

In the girls' 18-and-under, Thea is ahead with her 2,500 points. Jodel Fernandez is at second with 2,150, followed by Theecel Minor (1,500), Lila Mailman (100), and Dina Jones (500).

Rafael Jones is currently on top in the boys' 14-and-under

division with his 3,500 ranking points, but not far behind at second place with 3, 250 is Miller. Round off to the Top 5 are Cajigan (2,000) Jake Lee (1,950) and Lucas Nutting (1,700).

In the girls' 14-and-under, Rastguiy occupies the No. 1 spot with her 3,150 points, followed by Corella (2,900), Arenovski (1,900), Bracken (1,900), Johnson (1,000), Hudkins (1,000), Alina Ishikawa (500), Lopez (300), and Gemmalie Eugenio (250).

In last year's NPO in Guam. NMITA sent four players in the boys' 18-and-under, and three in the girls' 18-and-under. In the boys' 14-and-under, CNMI also had four entries, while only three Commonwealth bets played in the girls' 14-and-under.

THE WEEK

Does the week start on Sunday or Monday? How there can be confusion about that confuses me. Calendars have Sunday as the first day but the weekend needs Sunday as much as it needs Saturday. For me, Monday is the first day of the week.

Which is to say, the week started out gloriously with the championship of the first-ever Budweiser Tinian Dynasty Invitational Inter-Hotel Basketball League, capping a tremendous

achievement by the hosts. For seven weeks, the Tinian Dynasty brought over five teams from Saipan and their entourages, providing food and rooms, with well-organized games. Attendance was robust as was the competition.

Tuesday night saw another large crowd at Capital Hill ball field for the Government-Business league softball playoffs. With attendance approaching the sport's halcyon days when it was played at Mt. Carmel field, whoever came up with the idea of putting a ball field on Capital Hill deserves a medal (wink wink).

Wednesday night saw two tight, well-played games: playoff basketball in the Ada Gym and a regular season game between two of the better Budweiser Saipan Major League. Unfortunately those two facilities are not up to snuff: the Ada Gym needs a major make-over and the lights at Palacios Field are substandard. Got stimulus money?

Thursday night the Big League will play a regular season game, probably low scoring as pitching and defense have been excellent this season, which portends well for the CNMI in this year's regional tournament.

Friday night is championship night for the Budweiser Basketball League.

Saturday is XTERRA, plus Little League baseball, Pohnpei Softball League, youth soccer, and junior tennis.

Sunday is no day of rest for me either as there are more sports all over the island. And then more on Monday.

For sports fans like me at this time of year, the week never ends, it just rolls over. I wouldn't trade it for anything. Well, yeah, maybe for a house full of cash. But not a one-room shack.

OL'ACES

From Page 36

38-44, Freddie Pelisamen led Ol'Aces' recovery in the third, firing nine straight points. Junior Renguul also scored in spurts, tallying Ol'Aces last seven points in the third period to give his team a 64-59 lead, entering the fourth period.

Ol'Aces began the payoff period with a triple from Tyrone Omar and they posted their biggest lead at 11, 72-61, with about seven minutes left in the match

Ol'Aces started pulling away in the game with their starters on the bench, allowing Omar, Mike Olaitiman, Renguul, and Romeo Iginoef to contributed to the team's cause.

When Ol'Aces' starters returned to the court, it was timely, as Diamond was threatening to come back.

A Bruce Berline undergoal stab moved Diamond within four, 75-79, going into the last two minutes of the game. But that was the closest that the Auto Fixers would get, as they missed in succession, while Ol'Aces drew clutch baskets from Pelisamen and made several free throws in the stretch to preserve the win.

Pelisamen scored straight points and the Ol'Aces went 7-for-10 from the 15-foot line with less than two minutes in the fourth period to set a title match with Docomo.

Ol'Aces 92 – Pelisamen 18, P. Camacho 17, Lizama 13, Renguul 11, Iginoef 8, Olaitiman 6, Rangamar 6, White 5, Omar 3.

Diamond Auto Care 84 -Joyner 16, Peredo 16, Esdrelon 16, Muleta 8, Berline 8, Camacho 8, Talania 6.

Scoring by quarters: 20-17, 38-44, 64-59, 92-84.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

NBA STANDINGS

EASTERN CONFERENCE Atlantic Division

		_					
y-Boston	62	20	.756	-			
x-Philadelphia	41	41	.500	21			
New Jersey	34	48	.415	28			
Toronto	33	49	.402	29			
New York	32	50	.390	30			
Central Division							
z Clavaland	66	16	805				

43 .476

39 Indiana 36 46 .439 Milwaukee .415

x-Chicago

x-Detroit

Southeast Division							
y-Orlando	59	23	.720	-			
x-Atlanta	47	35	.573	12			
x-Miami	43	39	.524	1			
Charlotte	35	47	.427	2			
Washington	19	63	232	4			

WESTERN CONFERENCE Southwest Division

y-San Antonio	54	28	.659	-
x-Houston	53	29	.646	1
x-Dallas	50	32	.610	4
x-New Orleans	49	33	.598	5
Memphis	24	58	.293	30

Northwest Division

		-3.	,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,	U II	
y-De	nver	54	28	.659	-
x-Po	rtland	54	28	.659	-
x-Uta	ah	48	34	.585	6
Minr	nesota	24	58	.293	30
0kla	homa Ci	ty 23	59	.272	32

Pacific Division

65	17	.793	-
46	36	.556	19
29	53	.358	35
19	63	.235	45
17	65	.207	48
	46 29 19	46 36 29 53 19 63	46 36 .556 29 53 .358 19 63 .235

x-Clinched Playoff Spot y-Division Champ z-Clinched Home Court

Yesterday's Games

Toronto 109, Chicago 98 Memphis 98, Atlanta 90 Miami 102, Detroit 96, OT Orlando 98. Charlotte 73 Indiana 115, Milwaukee 108 Boston 115, Washington 107 New York 102, New Jersey 73 Dallas 95. Houston 84 Sacramento 97, Minnesota 90 San Antonio 105, New Orleans 98, OT Philadelphia 111, Cleveland 110, OT Portland 104 Denver 76 Phoenix 117, Golden State 113 Oklahoma City 126, L.A. Clippers 85

MLB STANDINGS

AMERICAN LEAGUE East Division

W Toronto Blue Jays 7 3 .700

6 3 .667 0 1/2 Baltimore Orioles New York Yankees 5 .556 11/2 4 Tampa Bay Rays 4 5 .444 2 1/2 Boston Red Sox 3 6 .333 3 1/2

Central Division Kansas City Royals 5

Detroit Tigers	5	4	.556	-
Chicago White Sox	4	4	.500	0 1/2
Minnesota Twins	4	6	.400	1 1/2
Cleveland Indians	2	7	.222	3

West Division

25

27

30

32

Seattle Mariners	7	2	.778	-
Texas Rangers	4	5	.444	3
Oakland Athletics	4	5	.444	3
Los Angeles Angels	3	5	.375	3 1/2

NATIONAL LEAGUE East Division

Florida Marlins	7	1	.875	-
Atlanta Braves	5	3	.625	2
Philadelphia Phillies	4	3	.571	2 1/2
New York Mets	4	4	.500	3
Washington Nationals 0		7	.000	6 1/2

Central Division

St. Louis Cardinals	7	3	.700	-
Chicago Cubs	5	3	.625	1
Pittsburgh Pirates	4	4	.500	2
Cincinnati Reds	4	4	.500	2
Milwaukee Brewers	3	6	.333	3 1/2
Houston Astros	2	6	.250	4

West Division

San Diego Padres	6	3	.667	-
Los Angeles Dodgers	6	3	.667	-
Colorado Rockies	4	4	.500	1 1/2
Arizona Diamondbacks	3	6	.333	3
San Francisco Giants	2	6	.250	3. 1/2

Yesterday's Games

Detroit 9, Chicago White Sox 0 Cleveland 5, Kansas City 4 Boston 8, Oakland 2 N.Y. Yankees 4, Tampa Bay 3 Texas 19, Baltimore 6 Toronto 12, Minnesota 2 Seattle 11, L.A. Angels 3 St. Louis 12, Arizona 7 Houston 4 Pittsburgh 1 Philadelphia at Washington, ppd., Rain Florida 10. Atlanta 4 N.Y. Mets 7, San Diego 2 Milwaukee 9, Cincinnati 3 L.A. Dodgers 5, San Francisco 4

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

LOCAL SCORES

BUDWEISER SML STANDINGS

0-9ers	5	1
Rock Steady	5	2
oung Guns	2	4
Tigers	2	4
alcons	2	4
Phoenix	Λ	6

McConnel says he's underdog in XTERRA

By NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.



Jim Mc-Connel of Great **FF** Britain himself as

the underdog among professional triathletes competing in the XTERRA Saipan Championship and the Tagaman Triathlon.

McConnel, who is looking for his first XTERRA win, finished second to Sam Gardner of United Kingdom two weeks ago in Guam.

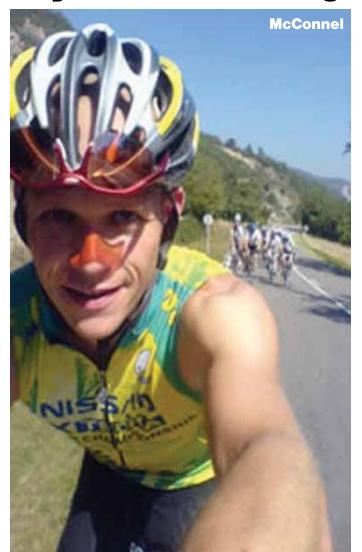
"Saipan has always been a challenging course. It's an endurance test," McConnel said during a recent interview.

He will be going up against the likes of Andrew Noble of Australia, Mike Vine of Canada, and Gardner.

Noble won the Tagaman in 2007 and the XTERRA in 2008 while Vine won the inaugural XTERRA in 2002.

He is coming back for the first time since that victory on Saipan.

McConnel said he will just try his best and hope for some good luck. He admitted he came



in second in Guam because of the small number of participants in that race.

McConnel finished fifth on Saipan in 2007.

"Definitely I'm fit. I'm 100 percent fit for the race. I'm happy for being here and join the fun. I'm feeling strong, he said.

Some 12 pros are expected to join the race including two-time world champion Julie Dibens of Great Britain and four-time winner Renata Bucher, also of Switzerland, in the women's

Dibens placed second to Bucher in 2007 but she won Tagaman that year.

This year, however Dibens will not be competing in the Tagman because of another commitment in a triathlon event in Florida.

The XTERRA Saipan Championships will be held this Saturday, April 18, while the Tagman is set on April 25.

Over a hundred participants are expected to join the two events including local triathletes.

A strong field of Japanese athletes will be led by two professionals—Takahiro Ogasawara and Taro Shirato.



Sascha Wingenfeld of Germany is one of the first time pro triathletes competing in this weekend's XTERRA Saipan Championship.

German pro says run portion will be crucial

By NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.

Sascha Wingenfeld of Germany, one of two professional triathletes competing for the first time in this weekend's XTERRA Saipan Championship, said the run portion of the race will be crucial for all the big guns.

"I think that it would be between Mike (Vine) and Sam (Gardner) for the Top 2," said Wingenfeld, a Frankfurt native who had been competing in the European series and finished fourth in the 2006 European Championships.

Wingenfeld will try to break into the Top 5 of the crown jewel of the XTERRA Global Tour.

German pro said it would be a close race to the finish line.

"So it's important to have a good run," said Wingenfeld, who is strong in the bike and run.

He said he's not so strong in swimming because of his height. He is listed at 5'6."

Wingenfeld says he's in tiptop shape for Saturday's race but still hopes more luck will come his way.

"It's my first race of the season and I'm excited about it. I don't know the chances of the other pros," he said.

The other first-time competitor on Saipan is Ulli Kratzer of Austria.

This would bring a total of 13 pros who are expected to join the race this year.

The others include Switzerland's Renata Bucher, Great Britain's Gardner, Jim McConnel, and Julie Dibens, Saipanbased Mieko Carey of Japan, Andrew Noble of Australia, Vine of Canada, Taro Shirato and Takahiro Ogasawara of Japan, Shonny Vanlandingham of the United States, and Arland Macasieb of the Philippines.

Like the other pros in the field, Wingenfeld is a little bit bothered by Saipan's sweltering heat.

"There's a lot of rain when After the swim and bike, the I left Germany and the snow was several inches thick. The temperature is as low as five degrees," he said.

He left Frankfurt last Thursday for a 12-hour flight to Seoul and reached Saipan after another four hours.

"I've heard a lot about Saipan two years ago and wanted to come but I just didn't had the chance before," he said.

Wingenfeld owns a small company specializing in health science.

"I do some health services for athletes most of my time," he said.

Austrian triathlete making XTERRA Saipan debut

By NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.

Ulli Katzer, a three-year veteran of the XTERRA World Championships, will make his XTERRA Saipan Championship debut tomorrow and he is excited about it.

"I'm glad to be here. I heard that Saipan is the best in all XTERRA races," said the 42-year old native of Graz, Austria, which is an hour and a half ride from the nation's capital Vienna.

Katzer arrived at dawn last Wednesday and immediately joined the tank-2-tank swim practice near the Saipan World Resort with some of the other pros including Mike Vine of Canada, Jim McConnel of Great Britain, fellow newcomer Sascha Wingenfeld of Germany, and Renata Bucher of Switzerland.

Bucher was the one who encouraged him to try the course on Saipan.

"It was a great swim out there," he

But he admitted that he's not that good in the swim portion since Austria is a landlocked country and he only swims in



XTERRA Saipan Championship first-timer Ulli Kratzer of Austria poses home-stay host Linda Graf.

when he left and it would take some time

to acclimatize himself with the weather on Saipan.

"Biking is no problem for me," said the 43-year-old Katzer, who is staying with Linda Graf for the duration of the Saipan Sports Fest.

Graf's 16-year-old son Cooper will also be doing the XTERRA Saipan and Tagaman with a teammate.

Katzer, who is a member of Austria's duathlon national team, has been into triathlon the past 23 years. He topped the 40-45 division in the XTERRA World Championships in Maui in

After that victory, Katzer became one of the regular pros in the European tour, placing 17th in the All-Europe Championships in Italy last year.

Asked about his chances, he said he would try to land in the Top 5.

Katzer had spent almost his entire life in sports.

"I like skiing as a kid. I did football, tennis, windsurfing, and started triathlon at 19," he said.

Although, he's a pro athlete, he does Besides, he said, it was too cold in Austria most of his time doing IT work in a Canadian factory based in Austria.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO



Chalan Kanoa Saints claimed the U20 division crown in the RBC Easter Basketball Invitational Tournament after downing the San Antonio Sixers in the finals,

76-65, Saturday at the Marianas High School Gymnasium.

The Eric Atalig-sponsored Saints got a big lift from CNMI Nationals players Jericho Cruz and Marvin Rabauliman to top the U20 division, which featured five teams.

Project Impact, Rollers, and the Sparks were the three other teams that joined the inaugural tournament Rollers Basketball Club organized.

Saints take U20 title in RBC caging

The Saints were the lone Saipan-based team to win a championship in the RBC caging, as Guam's Barrigada Crusaders ruled the U14 and U17 divisions of the Easter tournament.

Cruz and Rabauliman scored the Saints' first 10 points and the former went on to nail two triples and fired six more points in the remaining minutes of the first half to give their team a 33-27

Rabauliman picked up where Cruz left of in the opening minutes of the second half, making eight of the Saints' first 14 markers. The rest of the Saints players joined the second-half breakaway with Zack Tudela, Luizi Reves, Leo Galarse, and Juan Camacho getting easy baskets.

With the Saints getting contributions from every player they fielded in the game, they led by as much as 19 points, 60-41, midway in the second half.

Mike Eclevia and Ernest Duenas tried to bring the Sixers back into the game, but ran out of time and failed to get support from their teammates.

Cruz top-scored for the Saints with 26 points, while Rabauliman finished with 20. Reyes added 10, Tudela made eight, and Galarse and Camacho chipped in six apiece.

Jason Bahillo led the Sixers with 19 points, but he had only six points in the second half, making four of them when the game was al-

ready decided.

The Saints won their first game in the tournament, beating Project Impact, 85-68, and then defeated Rollers. The eventual champions advanced to the title game after topping the Sixers, 78-74.

The Sixers prevailed over Rollers and the Sparks, before losing to the Saints in the winner's bracket semifinals. The Ray Duenas-coach Sixers then dropped to the loser's bracket and had to beat Project Impact to gain the last finals ticket.

Saints 76 – J. Cruz 26, Rabauliman 20, Lu. Reves 10, Tudela 8, Galarse 6, Camacho 6.

Sixers 65 – Bahillo 19, E. Duenas 13, Eclevia 12, Jung 7, M. Duenas 5, White 4, Salas 1.

Scoring by halves: 33-27, 76-65.



Rangers get back at Rock Steady, 7-4

Ford Rangers got back at defending champion Rock Steady, 7-4, in a tension-filled game that opened the second round of the 2009 Budweiser Saipan Major League Wednesday night at the Francisco "Tan Ko' Palacios Ballfield.



Spurs clinch Southwest Division with OT win

Michael Finley hit a buzzer-beater, Tim Duncan was nearly unstoppable and the Spurs claimed another division title

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SAIPAN TRIBUNE

36 FRIDAY, APRIL 17, 2009



By ROSELYN B. MONROYO roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com

l'Aces caught the last trip to the finals of the 2008-2009 BANMI/Budweiser Basketball League after outclassing Diamond Auto Care in their playoff game, 92-84, Wednesday night at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

Ol'Aces will duel Docomo for this year's title. Docomo has a twice-to-beat advantage over Ol'Aces, as the former swept its first three games in the playoffs. Game 1 of the finals is set for tonight, while Game 2, if necessary, will be played on Monday.



The eight-point win was Ol'Aces' lone victory against Diamond this season. The Auto Fixers swept Ol'Aces in the regular season, pulling off 82-74 and 83-72 wins in the first and second round, respectively. Diamond made it three in a row when it defeated Ol'Aces in the quarterfinals, 89-76.

In their fourth meeting, Ol'Aces made sure they were on the winning side this time.

Ol'Aces comeback taking full control of the game in the closing minutes of the third period and then held off Diamond's repeated comeback bids in the fourth to nail the last finals seat. After trailing at halftime,

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OFF THE BENCHBy BOB COLDEEN Special to the Saipan Tribune

would be a world class sports facility.



The week that was and is

ver a breakfast of banana pancakes, eggs over easy,
crispy bacon, and a fresh orange, washed down by
two cups of coffee laced with French Vanilla cream,
consider this: If star-gazing was a sport, Saipan

I wouldn't trade our January to April weather with anyone. Okay, unless they gave me a boatload of cash. But it would have to fill a nice-sized boat, not a dinghy, kayak, or canoe.

Hey, weather is important to my emotional well-being. The first time I became aware of that was in Gainesville, Florida when the sun did not shine for two weeks and I got depressed for no other reason. Low pressure in the atmosphere somehow affects my chemical make-up. Tropical storms give me the heebie-jeebies.

When the barometer goes up, so does my attitude. I get high when it's high pressure.

Which is to say, I feel good about the ideal conditions that will (probably) grace tomorrow's XTERRA. The lagoon is calm and clean, as good an ocean swim as any in the world. Or so I've been told by visiting professional triathletes. The challenge and beauty of these hills is at the top of the circuit too.

What a great way to start a weekend chock-full of outdoor sports here. All of the fields will be used, thanks to the addition of 500 youth soccer players.

See THE WEEK on Page 34

Doubles to start CNMI Junior Championships



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Christian Miller serves, while Daniel Park waits for their foes' next move during the PIC netfest early this month. Doubles action resumes this weekend when NMITA holds the 2009 CNMI Junior Championships at the AMP tennis courts.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO

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The 2009 CNMI Junior Championships will start the first weekend of competition in the

annual tournament with doubles matches in four divisions at the American Memorial Park tennis courts.

Four preliminary games in the girls' 18-and-under division will be played today, while also set on the first day of the tournament are eight games in the boys' 12-and-under age group. Action in the boys' 18-and-

under and girls' 12-and-under doubles will begin tomorrow.

Games in the boys' 12-andunder division will be played first at 3:30pm, while matches in the girls' 18-and-under doubles will start at 5pm.

Eight pairs are entered in the boys' 12-and-under division, namely the tandems of Carl Dela Cruz/Chris Cajigan, Rafael Jones/Kui Lee, Aaron Lee/Jake Lee, Quintin Ramsey/Dylan Ackerman, Tommy Choi/Colin Ramsey, Kennedy Izuka/Chris Park, Clayton Izuka/Alex Park, and John Cano/ Jordan Butcher.

See DOUBLES on Page 34

Tinian triathlete to make XTERRA Saipan debut

